

Testimony of Charles E. Woods Jr.

Advocate for Concerned Citizens

Before the Judiciary Committee

April 1, 2011

SB-1225 AN ACT CONCERNING FALSE REPORTS OF CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT

Thank you for the opportunity to present the concerns of falsely accused persons. The need to protect our children and elders who are not capable of defending themselves is a major goal in today's society. In our quest to provide the defense needed, we pass laws to guide and establish proper rules of detection, enforcement and resolution. However, in our quest to provide this umbrella of protection, we must also provide for the fair and just treatment of those accused. An accusation is just that, not a fact. To not recognize this is to open the door to abuse and vindictive actions. We are aware that not all accusations are for the protection of the defenseless but can be used to destroy the accused. The new provisions of this bill start to recognize this situation but does not go far enough. There needs to be an avenue for the accused to defend themselves and if disproved accusations persist, there should be an avenue for relief. Our government agencies have a history of making the wrong decisions and the average citizen has no recourse.

I do support this bill and would like to see it expanded to be more definitive.

I strongly urge your support for this bill.

Charles E. Woods Jr.

Peoples