

March 13, 2012 Testimony of Novlette Williams on behalf of:

Raised Bill No. 5440 – Aging: An Act Concerning Visitation Rights, for grandparents and other persons.

My name is Novlette Williams I am a 58 year old student at the University Of Connecticut School Of Social Work pursuing the Masters program in social work. When I saw this proposed bill it made me aware that there are other grandparents who are experiencing this issue that I am experiencing. Many grandparents are missing out of sharing the love and joy they have and want to extend on their grandchildren.

I am a grandmother of 12 children and I am giving this testimony in support of visitation rights for grandparents. As a mother and grandmother I have seen and experience the hurt of not being able to be a part of my two granddaughters growing up. I have two granddaughters who I love dearly and I have not seen or heard from them almost three years now. This is all due to the parents and other grandparents fighting amongst each other. I have bought gifts for birthdays, Christmas and other occasions and they have accumulated dust because I have been denied phone calls and visits. My grandsons have not seen their sisters and whenever they try to call on the phone no one picks up. We utilized the visitation through the courts but at times we cannot afford the fee for the mediator. I believe being a part of the kids life will be a plus to them as well and keeping them away from their loved ones (brothers, aunts, uncles and some) is unfair, because other adults cannot get along.

All I want is to love them and let them know that we are family and no matter what in differences their parents have we still love and care about their well being. I pray for them every day but I miss them and now I don't know what they look like as they have been out of my sight and sound so long and it is very painful. Please support this bill. Thank you for listening to my story.