

Testimony of Sixto Cancel in Support of S.B. 156
An Act Concerning Sibling Visitation for Children in the Care and Custody of the Commissioner
of Children and Families.

Select Committee on Children
February 28, 2012

My phone kept vibrating. I looked at my phone, it was my mother. I pressed the red end call button. I got up but she kept calling and calling. I ended her call about four times and on the fifth I answer it whispering into the phone that I was in church. She responded to me by saying, "They killed Tyson."

No cushion and especially no comfort. I collapsed into the seat in disbelief. A scream from the deepest spot in my diaphragm echoed through the church. I had lost it. I yelled and scream not knowing what to do. My hands trembled as much as my voice. My friends try to ask me what was wrong but I could not complete the sentences without choking or gasping for air.

He was just here, I thought. This must be a lie. How could God allow this? Why would he permit such a thing? I had never been angry with God until this day. I stormed out the church. Everything in my life was always screwed up. What did I do to deserve this? Who the hell was God to take my brother?

My greatest regret in my life is that I never told my nineteen year old brother how much I love him or had the opportunity to spend as much time as I wanted with him. My older brother didn't grow up in the same state as me and because of it I didn't get to see him as often. There was always "red tape." However, living in the same city as my other siblings and not being able to see them is worst. There was always this unsaid sense that you can connect with your siblings when get older but what happens when you missed the opportunity because one sibling died or like my other three brothers, incarcerated? Sometimes there is no later. We need our siblings now. I always said that it is not the Department of Children and Families fault that I entered foster care but it is their fault that I wasn't able to spend time with my siblings.