

Testimony of Tiana Alicea

In Support of S.B. 156

I have never used foster care as an excuse for anything and I never plan to. That is not to say, however, that it has not made things harder for me. At the age of twelve I was separated from my sister, the only person who had remained consistent in my life. Though the circumstances were undesirable my at the time social worker assured me she would take me to visit my sister at least once a month. In the year to follow I saw my sister around three times. I realized that my social worker was depriving me of visits essential to my relationship with my sister. Luckily I was blessed to have a sister smart enough to make sure we remained in touch. At fourteen years old she had proved herself to be more mature than my forty something year old social worker. The thought that there are other kids out there who might be in this same situation truly breaks my heart. My sister is my best friend. Visits between siblings should not be a privilege.