

Testimony

Annette Nunez

Wallingford, CT

Raised H.B No.6685 (IN FAVOR OF THIS H.B.6685) *Shared Child Custody*

Hello, I'm Annette Nunez and a grandmother.

How many of you are mothers, fathers or grandparents?

My son and his former girlfriend had a baby 2 years ago. This is my only grandchild and for 2 years my son has had an ongoing battle to be part of his son's life. He has spent over \$25,000. He has done more than anyone I have ever seen to bond with his son and be part of his life. I had been promised a phone call when the baby would arrive. The call never came however, my son found out by being served legal papers. When my son received them he was heartbroken (along with the rest of the family) not to be at such a life changing event.

The last two years of this roller coasting ride has been an unbelievable joy having a new grandchild; on the other hand it has been a nightmare with the problems regarding the legal system. The shared custody issue is ongoing and draining to say the least. The legal system is old broken, gender biased and unfair. I believe my grandson's mother is not a bad mother, but is permitted by law to deprive my son of his legal, moral and ethical rights.

I, along with my family am also deprived of the good fortune to be able to **give** to my grandson what my grandmother gave me. My little 2 year old beautiful, healthy grandson is a true GIFT FROM GOD. My grandmother had the most impact on my life. I want to be able to give my little grandson what he is entitled to and deserves without question. That includes my unconditional love, my values, nurturing, teaching, playing, eating good food, going to the beach, church and sharing stories and hugs. My grandmother taught me through example. This especially true about the faith she had in GOD. She was a remarkable woman with tremendous perseverance. She came from Italy and loved to cook and feed everyone. The door was always open at her home. When you walked in the door you could smell the Italian food simmering on the stove and the warm love energy in the room. The words in the home were spoken in both English and Italian but they said the same thing, (I love you).

If I could give my grandson half of what my grandmother gave me, it would be fabulous. He could feel more secure and be happy knowing he could always come to grandma's house. It's a win-win situation. When you vote on H.B.6685 remember all these children don't just lose their fathers but their grandmas and extended family which are priceless