

March 13, 2016

Bill HB508 – Hearing 3-14-16

To The Judiciary Committee:

I am a grandmother in the state of Connecticut. I have three girls, adopted at older ages from Eastern Europe. They have a background of abuse and neglect. Two of them have children, a girl who is 6, and a boy who is 5. We raised our granddaughter from July, 2010 to April, 2013. Our granddaughter was then placed with her biological father, who she had never lived with before. Today, I am not allowed to be alone with my granddaughter. I cannot babysit, take her to the park, or do any of the grandparent things I long to do with her. I guess I am one of the lucky ones, because I can go and see her, but the father must be there. I am sometimes invited to Christmas plays or graduations, but I long for the one-on-one contact we once shared. Everyone says that we did a good job raising her and she was very bonded to my husband and me. I long to hold her! The intimate relationship we once had now seems to be gone. I have not been alone with her for almost a year. We are not included in her everyday life. My daughter chooses drugs over her only child.

The same thing is now happening with my grandson. He was at our house almost every weekend. I was the first person to hold him when he was born. My oldest daughter also has a problem with addiction. As it stands right now, I am allowed to take him for one hour and he cannot come to my home unless his caregiver or her husband is with him. This is my grandson!

Please help us have intimate relationships with our grandchildren in Connecticut!

Thank you.

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