

2/12/16

Hello, Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Urban, and Members of the Children's Committee,

RE: "An Act Concerning a Notification of Support for Foster Parents and Relative Caregivers."

My name is Jeanne Wehling. I am writing to you regarding a bill set before you. " An Act Concerning a Notification of Support for Foster Parents and Relative Caregivers." I am writing you bring to light the importance of this Act. Also, I am writing to you to ask for your support with this Act.

I would be here to speak before you, however I am previously committed to an appointment regarding my relative foster child. On 3/27/14, I received a phone call. My assistance was requested regarding my cousin (godson). His mom (my cousin) and step father were currently homeless yet again for the 4 time that school year. That day I re-enrolled him back into high school not as easy task. My next call was to DCF asking for assistance. "I'm sorry, I can't share any information with you at this time. " That was my first of many conversations with DCF. Fast forward to today, I still have my godson. I still have to battle with DCF regarding information.

If you haven't gotten this phone call for a relative, or have made the decision to take on this responsibility for a non-related child, you simply do not know the struggle. This is why I urge you to please support this Act. I was in the room the moment Dylan my godson was born. I made him a promise to him, that I would always be there for him. If it wasn't for this promise, with the system the way it is, I would have given in and given up.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanne Wehling

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