

3-18-2019

Sharon Pennington

From: Miste Karlfeldt <miste.karlfeldt@healthfreedomidaho.org>
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2019 7:45 PM
To: Sharon Pennington
Subject: Please Vote YES ON HB170

Please submit as my written testimony

I ask that you vote in favor of HB 170.

In 2017 I received a phone call that a disabled parents in CDA were having their baby taken from them by CPS. The mother was still in the hospital when the social worker and detective determined that the baby was in imminent danger. HFI got involved and raised awareness about the issue. After 10 days without his mom and dad the judge determined that the baby was taken wrongfully and returned baby Elijah to his loving parents.

This story was widely reported in the news and on social media so parents dealing with CPS got the idea that we would be able to help. I was overwhelmed with stories pouring in through every possible platform that one can use to reach a person. I would ask them if they were willing to share their stories but they would say no for 2 reasons.

1. They were afraid. They didn't want to do anything that would jeopardize the possibility of getting their children back.
1. They were under a gag order. Often times, part of the arrangement of returning children to their families is to silence them so that they can't talk about the details of their case

I will not be there speak on behalf of these parents tomorrow so I would like to submit this as my testimony.

The overwhelming majority of these stories go like this....

A social worker and a police officer show up at the door. The police officer is there for the protection of the social worker but the parents think that they represent an authority to enter the home. The social worker tells the parent that they need entry into the home to be sure that the children are safe. They assure parents that all will go well for them if they just allow them into the home. The parent feels that they need to prove that they have adequate housing for the children and allows them unknowingly giving up their right to unreasonable search and seizure.

At no time does the parent understand that they have the right to say no or have the right to have an attorney present. Their hearts are in their throats, they are sick to their stomach, and they allow the coercion to rule over logical thinking.

On behalf of the parents that are too afraid or are unable to speak up for themselves I ask that you pass this bill. Parents should be given their rights in this stressful situation so that they can make an educated decision about something that can have such a drastic impact on their lives.

As a tax payer, I would like to see the rights defined for the parents to save money. It is only a matter of time before lawsuits are filed because parents make the claim that their rights have been violated.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this email. I would greatly appreciate a yes vote on HB 170. --

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