

February 26, 2013

Honorable Chair and Committee Members on Children and Senior Issues,

My name is Stacie Roulston and I reside in Wichita, KS. I want to thank you for hearing HB2233, the Enactment of the Protective Parent Reform Act.

I have listed a few cases of parents in Kansas, including grandparents, that after either filing protection orders to protect their child, making police reports, and or contacting the State, they have lost custody of their children. Some parents have been placed on supervised visits or had their parental rights terminated. Sadly, in a couple of these cases, where the system refused to protect these children, they were murdered.

*Case of S. R.*, protective mother, lost custody and placed on supervised visitation

*Case of C. B.*, protective father, lost custody of his children and not allowed visitation

*Case of V. R.*, protective mother, parental rights terminated

*Case of L. S.*, protective father, parental rights terminated

*Case of N.P.*, protective mother, after being placed on supervised visits for reporting the abuse to her daughter, 2 1/2 year old D. R. was murdered, 2008

*Case of L&M. C.*, protective maternal grandparents, made multiple reports of abuse for their granddaughter, 23 month old B. C., who was murdered 2008

*Case of S.P.*, protective paternal grandparents, sought protection for 5 month old grandson, G. M., who was murdered 2010

***Not one thing or any dollar amount can compensate for the loss of these children, the pain these children have had to endure, the loss of life of the children that were never protected, and what their protective families have suffered.***

I am here today because I am a parent that lost custody of my child for trying to protect him. At the age of 8, my son told me he was being abused by his father. After being granted a Protection From Abuse Order for my son, the Judge then ordered me to contact the local authorities and SRS/DCF. The consequences of my reporting the abuse was that my son was taken from my custody, placed in foster care, and then eventually placed in the home of his abuser. Laws were violated, constitutional rights were ignored and most importantly my child's right to protection was denied.

After the State placed my son in the home of his abuser, I was then placed on supervised visits, where there is an off duty court house guard in my home. In order to see my child, which I only tried to protect after he told me that he was being abused, I have to pay \$50 cash every week for our 1 1/2 hour "monitored" visits. This has been going on for over 7 years. The Judge's order to have a guard in my home every week when my son is there was not to protect my son from me, but to continue to keep my son from telling of his abuse.

Through these last 7 years my son is evidence of a failed system and why children, their protective parents and families, need HB2233. After my son was placed in the home of his abuser, there have been multiple reports of abuse including failure to thrive, ripping his hair out, self inflicting and medical neglect. Last year, in April, my son's School Administrator contacted me to advise that my son had gone months without any lunch... SRS/DCF dismissed that report in favor of the child abusers, my son's father and stepmother. A few weeks after school ended in May, my son lost three pounds due to lack of food in his father and stepmother's home. There was another report of abuse made to the State and again my son's father and stepmother were unsubstantiated for abuse.

Today I am here to be the voice for my son who was denied his voice. No child should suffer, and no State Agency, Law Enforcement Officer or Judicial Administrator should interfere with parental rights and the protection of their child. No parent, who in good faith who are only trying to protect their child, should be stripped of their parental rights. The State should only have ONE position in child abuse cases and that should be to protect the child, NOT to destroy the child's life.

It is my hope that the passage of HB2233 will send a clear message that the safety of Kansas children is a top priority.

Thank you for your time and consideration of HB2233,

Stacie

Stacie Roulston  
2205 N Crestline Ct  
Wichita, KS 67205  
[stacier@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stacier@sbcglobal.net)