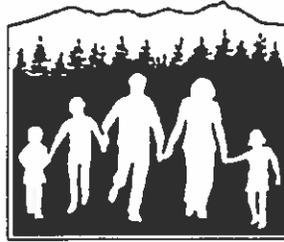


Citizens For Parental Rights-PAC

P.O. Box 334
Dorr, MI 49323
www.citizensforparentalrights.org
616-681-5635



April 12, 2016

To: Members of the Judiciary Committee
House of Representatives, State of Michigan

Re: HB 5521, SB 483, SB 485, SB 458 and today's hearing.

Dear Representatives,

Thank you for your service to the people of Michigan.

This is to communicate our support for HB 5521(Kesto), which requires keeping siblings together in foster care placements. SB 483(Jones) requires that siblings be placed together in foster care or have sibling visitation where that is not possible, and we support this bill also. It is traumatic for children to lose their parents and their home, and the company and support of siblings can be very helpful during this difficult experience.

SB 485(Jones) defines and requires regular and frequent parenting time for foster children and we support this important concept also. Just yesterday I talked with another mom who is living through this very issue. I have met with the parents and discussed their case thoroughly, and it is clear that many of the allegations that have been made are false and others irrelevant. Yet their son had been taken from the home by CPS and is placed in foster care under the supervision of a private agency. As often happens there is a great deal of hurt, anger and tears. Reportedly the young son is unhappy with CPS, and though happy to visit parents, he becomes very sad when it is time for the visit to end. The court has made recommendations for visitation, but the agency has not complied. While for those of us who are not involved, this lack of compliance may seem easy to excuse, this deprivation is not at all easy for the parents or the young son. Regular and frequent parenting time should be defined and enforceable. We often recite "with liberty and justice for all", and I suggest that today it is time to ensure that this applies to young Billie and his family in this situation also.

It also seems wise to make the psychological examination for the child optional rather than required.

We trust that the rationale for SB 458 (Shuitmaker) is also legitimate and have no objections to that bill.

Sincerely,

John Tuinstra, President
Citizens For Parental Rights