

Written testimony only

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Saline County
State Senate District 24

Chairman Hildebrand and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Margaret Finger, and I am writing in support of SB 276. This bill would allow blind parents to have the same rights as any other parents. There have been occasions where they are not permitted to take their babies home from the hospital and be granted the opportunity to prove that they can be successful parents. I know many such parents and I, myself am a successful blind parent. I will describe my experience.

I was declared legally blind at the age of 11 due to a genetic retinal eye disease. Despite this I made it through public school and graduated high school with honors. I earned a four-year scholarship and I attended Sam Houston State University. From there I graduated from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston with a BS in occupational therapy. I married and gave birth to 3 children while pursuing a full-time career in occupational therapy. I was fortunate that no one attempted to remove my children from me at their birth.

When my children were growing up, I always kept them in my line of vision which should be apparent was very close. My children never got lost, were kidnapped, or suffered any broken bones. I helped them with their homework, and we went skating, swimming, and took many field trips together.

At present, my oldest Daughter is an executive in an international corporation in Austin, Texas. She is married and has 3 of my beautiful grandchildren. My youngest daughter went to college and has my other 3 grandchildren. She works hard in taking care of her children and has even put them into private schools to make sure their needs are met. My son has multiple medical problems and therefore suffers from depression, so he struggles. Despite this he works very hard.

Every Mother's Day I am remembered by all my children. We have weekly phone calls and try to get together once a year.

Since they have grown, I earned my transitional Doctorate from Creighton University and now have a very successful therapeutic massage business.

I would love to be there in person to testify, but many of my clients have medical problems that benefit from my massages. My Tuesdays, I am usually at work for 9 hours.

If anyone has further questions for me, you can email me at:

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