

Written testimony only
January 30, 2022
I am in support of SB276

Chairman Hilderbrand and Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee Members:

The first time I had any contact with DCF, was in 2014. My daughter had just started pre-k. One day a social worker showed up at my door saying someone had a concern that I couldn't give my daughter her medicine correctly. She has ADHD, and had just been put on meds. I explained that she only took one pill, and I was very upset, because you never know what they may do, or have a problem with.

Nothing came of it. She said everything seemed fine, and she left.

The next time they were called on me, was in 2018. This time, child protective services were called along with adult protective services. When they came out, they said someone had called because I left the water running and almost ran the sink over. The background of that is, I was washing dishes, and the maintenance man came to the door. I went to answer it, and got to talking to him about what needed to be done, and forgot about the water. He noticed it. I am sure he had to be the one who called, because no one else would have even known about it. Anyway, they showed up at different times, the DCF worker talked to my kids. I asked if she wanted to look around, or check out their room, but she said everything looked fine, and the kids seemed fine.

The last time they were called, was in 2020. I believe my daughter's teacher called them. They said they were told my son hit her. I think this was the same teacher who told my kids they were too old to be hugging each other. Anyway, when the worker came, he looked at both the kids. I told him yes they do hit each other sometimes, that's what sisters and brothers do. They do argue a lot now that they are older, when they get mad at each other. I don't just allow them to hit each other. The worker seemed to understand that kids sometimes do that.

Anyway, every time this happened, it scared me. I didn't know what they might do. They may not like the way I take care of them, or they just may think I can't take care of them because I am totally blind. I know people think that way. I have had experiences with people in general saying things like that. Like do you have someone who helps you take care of your kids, or who takes care of them for you, and that sort of thing. It scares me when DCF is called for any reason at all.

Sincerely,

Kambree Purdy
Wichita, Sedgwick County Kansas
District