

Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare, 2/1/2022

Testimony in support of SB 276

Thank you for hearing me this morning. I want to take you back 50 years to 1972. I was 13 and it was the night before my mom had to go to divorce court. I overheard a conversation between my mom and my grandmother...her mother that I have never forgotten to this day. My mother said "What will we do if Bob wants the kids?" I heard my grandmother burst into sobs...something I had never heard before...and say "We'll deal with that if it happens."

1972. All my dad had to do was say he wanted the kids. Never mind that he had left his family and moved out of state. My mom was blind and all it took in 1972 was a request by the non-disabled parent and children would have no choice.

I find it very unsettling that 50 years later we have made no progress and many parents find themselves in the same position that my mother found herself in 5 decades ago. No parent – regardless of what type of disability they have – should lose their children simply because they have a disability.

It is 2022. It's time we treated parents with disabilities with the respect they deserve.

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