February 21, 2013

HB 2233 Enacting the Protective Parent Reform Act

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

I am here to testify in regards to HB 2233. I have chosen to speak on this bill for several reasons. The bill attempts to build some accountability into a system that has little to none. I have talked too many of you individually, through emails and letters. You all know that this is a complex problem, yet the current laws do little to help the most lay of person to grasp the depths of the problems.

So I decided to attempt to simplify the issues, and make this an easier breakdown. I think the questions and the answers are simple and staring everyone in the face. We just keep missing it because no one took the time to break the complex issues down, to a single short message.

Why do we remove fit parents from the lives of their children?

I want you to take the time to think about that question, and then you can come to the base realization of the problem. It is the shocker that counters all arguments against parent's rights to their children and the right to raise them. It uses the arguments that have been spun on parents and the question that so many have asked about the base problems of society that the social workers and the courts that have tried to engrain into our heads about *dead beat* parents that don't "support" or refuse to be involved with their children. That simple question, with reflection, takes all that we have heard preached to us, and turns it back to the very root of the problem – the law. This question does not simply open the door; it tears the door off the hinges. Those opposing these legal changes don't even know the door has been knocked down and we are coming for our children.

It is easily understood and opens the conversation to present the flaws of a legal system and State laws which have failed so many parents and children, that society has become over burdened with the cost of removing a fit parent that can provide support in more ways than just financial. We have the societal cries of why parents are not being allowed to be involved or parent their children without government to explaining their point of view for the problem. If you look at all that has been claimed and all that has been written over the years no single message explains that problem so completely in so few words.

The problem starts with the legislature – it has failed to grow, act or evolve. It has remained stagnant in its use of failed messages, and policies. This failure to evolve or change is the underlying description of crazy – Doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result. Success will only happen when the entire system is changed, its approach and message. It is time to throw away the detractors – Children's Advocate Center (because they want to take issue with the forensic interviewing of children), maybe they are not the best suited to handle this job in the first place. NASW – (because this bill does not require a minimum standard of licensure), maybe they have shown for decades why they are not qualified to handle such matters no matter how much training they receive. DCF – (because they have concerns for the cost of implementing parts of the bills), maybe their

exaggerations when reviewed are simply unfounded. Of course we can't leave out the Judiciary – this is the branch that helps make it all happen, they want to argue the (guardian ad litem role, or to keep the Judges "broad discretion"), which only makes since because they control that group of people, and it silences the child's voice from ever being heard.

Over the course of the past couple years I have been privileged with the access to you that few have had before. I have been able to talk to you away from the State house and inside the State house. I have had extremely open conversation on the problems that the current legal scheme holds for parents that are guilty of nothing more than ending a personal relationship with another adult. The end of that personal relationship does not end your relationship with your child or children; it also doesn't allow the government to place the parents on "probation" through the courts, and the government will never be a parent to that child. There is no reason why the Courts should dictate how and when parents should be able to see and raise their child in this fashion, they need to be free from government interjection. You have not given up a God given right to parent simply by the dissolution of a marriage contract or the allegation of a stranger.

I have pointed out this out to many of you and stated this clearly; this is the only system of law where you are punished for committing no crime. It is the only system where you do not know and are guaranteed not to know the outcome when you enter it. Yet the current laws allow for the removal of a fit parent for no rhyme or reason other than it can. When did we make these courts punitive?

We remain unable to present the problem in a comprehensive solution because we cannot except the depths of the problem. We have allowed old thought patterns to cloud common sense or practical thoughts. We ramble on about what the courts did to us rather than how the problems can be solved. We don't represent ourselves but we do represent the thousands that are affected by a bad legal scheme. We are presenting ourselves as the voice of many not of one. "The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few, or the one."

This will save the state money. It will save families, and it will save parent/child relationships that should have never be stolen. This corruption has been perpetrated by so many through the years, because of the money, and power it places on the children's heads, this is so wrong. The State loses money. Federal incentives that come in child support are not money makers for the State, we spend more to interfere or prosecute these parents, than they take in. Courts loose money by continuing the problem by jamming their own dockets through these non-effective judicial social experiments. Please ask the question again, and start the rebuilding the foundation of our laws in this area to benefit the State and the families and children.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Brown

"You have enemies? Good. That means you've stood up for something, sometime in your life". -Winston Churchill