

House Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services
 03/04/2022 Upon Adjournment
 HB22-1231 Foster Parent Bill Of Rights
 Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
<p>Kaci Nice For Self</p>	<p>Thank you Madam Chair and the Members of Committee. My name is Kaci Nice and I am a Foster Mother here to speak on behalf of all other foster mothers in support of this bill.</p> <p>Ensuring that we have rights throughout this process helps everyone. The children feel more safe when we have boundaries and securities and so do we as a family unity. The foster children often have questions along the way and allowing the foster parents the information and resources that they need goes so far for the child feeling comfortable.</p> <p>Being a foster parent is very scary and we are often left completely in the dark during the process. I was very diligent about asking many questions but felt lost in the process, even when I did ask lots of questions.</p> <p>As foster parents, we are charged with the responsibility of raising someone else's child properly. A child is someone's most prize possession, it's a large responsibility. Providing the resources necessary at the top to us as foster parents, will allow stability and comfort to trickle down to the child. Without having rights and knowledge going into the process, is like going into a challenging situation completely ill prepared. It's parent raising at it's hardest.</p> <p>We hope for a unanimous vote yes on this bill. Any rights for the foster parents, directly help the children. Thanks you for your time and consideration. Kaci Nice, Foster Mother.</p>
<p>Deborah Cave For Colorado Coalition of Adoptive Parents (COCAF)</p>	<p>Good morning, Madam/Mr. Chair, Vice Chair, Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1231 today.</p> <p>My name is Deborah Cave, and I am the Executive Director of the Colorado Coalition of Adoptive Families (COCAF). I am writing in support of HB 1231. Foster parents have been identified by the county as appropriate caregivers for children and youth who have entered the foster care system. This can be a rewarding, but very difficult job. Children who enter care have experienced trauma and foster parents must deal with/provide care and redirection/identify appropriate providers for the child and his/her associated behaviors due to that trauma. If a county has established that the foster parents are the appropriate placement for the child, then the family must be included in every aspect as part of the team supporting the child. Any parent with a birth child understands that they cannot do their job as a parent if they</p>

	<p>are not provided information, respected by and included in all decisions by the community supporting their child – pediatricians, educators, specialized providers etc. We must respect this need for foster parents as well. Additionally, the behaviors of some children placed in care can be unsafe for other children in the home – those who have been sexually abused, been exposed to violence, have mental health/behavioral issues – and this is especially true if the foster parent has not been informed of these behaviors. If a foster parent is held responsible for the safety of all children/dependents in their care, they must be provided all the information required to put appropriate safeguards in place.</p> <p>This is common sense legislation – support and promote the parents who have stepped forward to provide care in all aspects of a traumatized child’s life. For a foster child to be provided a safe and caring environment and have the best chances of healing, the foster parents must have all necessary supporting documentation related to that child, be treated as a professional, and be acknowledged as an integral part of the county team.</p> <p>I am respectfully requesting that your support of HB 1231. Thank you.</p> <p>Deborah Cave</p>
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