

Jennifer Haines - House Bill 434

From: Jamie Buchenauer
To: Jennifer Haines; Nancy Paone
Date: 12/9/2004 11:17 AM
Subject: House Bill 434

Hi,

Just to give you an update of where I am in getting this bill re-drafted for Rep. Sather. . .

I contacted the Foster Parent Assoc. and the Department of Public Welfare. There is a statistic in the bill that states, "Of the Children Adopted in PA during 2002, 64% were adopted by their foster parent or parents." It would be great if we could have an updated statistic for the bill upon reintroduction. The Department is working to see if they have one.

Thanks,
Jamie

LARRY O. SATHER, MEMBER

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House of Representatives

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Larry O. Sather

SUBJECT: Proposed Legislation – Foster Parent Consideration Act

I will be re-introducing legislation to establish the Foster Parent Consideration Act. The legislation requires **consideration** be given to foster parents if they are interested in adopting their foster children by ensuring an interview with the foster family care agency. Information gathered from the interview, along with the results of interviews from other prospective adoptive resources, is presented to the appropriate county children and youth agency for review when making a determination on an adoptive family.

This legislation was drafted in response to the concerns of foster parents who feel that they are not given consideration when adoption becomes their foster child's goal. Foster parents are generous and caring and often seek to make the foster child a permanent part of their lives.

Additionally, this measure emphasizes aspects that should be paramount when seeking an adoptive resource for foster children, such as the importance of relatives (kin) to care for the children and the preservation of entire sibling groups. The legislation encourages, as best practice, communication between all parties that have an interest in the well being of the child.

According to the Department of Public Welfare, of the children adopted in Pennsylvania during 2003, 63.7 percent were adopted by their foster parent or parents. This statistic clearly indicates foster parents are being utilized as an effective adoptive resource. This bill reinforces this approach through statute and requires children and youth agencies to be cognizant of the availability of foster parents for permanent placements.

Although some foster parents may not be selected to become the adoptive resource, this proposal seeks to emphasize the significance of foster parents as part of the child's transition team and their important role in the lives of children throughout the Commonwealth.

If you are interested in co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact my office at (717) 787-3335 or by e-mail at jhaines@pahousegop.com.

LOS/jrh