

House Human Services Committee
Jan 27th, 2025 HB 1556
Testimony in Opposition

Dear Chair Ruby and the members of the House Human Services Committee,

I urge a “Do Not Pass” on HB 1556.

I believe that adoptive parents are parents and it alarms me that we have a bill that lets parents give up on their child, if that child is inconvenient.

I understand there will exist times where a home may not be the right fit for the kid or parent, where the parent cannot provide a safe or nurturing environment for the unique needs of a child, or where there is perhaps danger posed in that living situation. While I am not an expert at adoption law, I would presume we’ve addressed these circumstances and I would hope we’re listening to our adoption experts with this bill.

As a layperson, I’m concerned this encourages shopping around for kids and returning ones you don’t like. Most of my concern is with just line 10 and 11 that I pulled below:

“Adopted child has been diagnosed with a severe mental health condition or behavioral health disorder by a licensed child psychologist or psychiatrist”

I would presume a lot of our kids in the adoption system have some kind of behavioral health disorder, which includes anxiety, depression, eating disorders, among other things many youth struggle with at some point in their life. And it breaks my heart to think an adoptive parent would be empowered to give up their child if that child had been severely depressed. I know that isn’t what the bill sponsor is thinking about when writing this bill, but tell me this bill as written wouldn’t allow for it?

I would at the end of the day defer to our adoption specialists, but as written and without any other information this bill scares me. It scares me that it makes life even scarier for kids who already are struggling so much.

At the very least, please clarify or take out Line 10 and 11 and be sure to consult with our adoption specialists for if this bill as itself is necessary.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state,
Faye Seidler