

34 Franklin St.
Lyons, NY 14489
November 6, 2013

Senator Charles Schumer
Att: Karen
Room 814
Hanley Federal Building
100 S. Clinton St.
Syracuse, NY 13261-7318

Dear Senator Schumer & Local Staff:

I am a coordinator for a group of parents seeking National Family Law reform (<http://www.AKidsRight.Org/> & <http://www.NationalPLC.Org>). We are mothers and fathers who have seen our families devastated by the Nation's patchwork of Family Law. We feel our Nation needs to recognize and protect our most precious right to "family." A small group of us would like to meet with your local staff to discuss this and hear your thoughts on this topic.

The Declaration of Family Rights

We have attached a Petition describing these fundamental rights in simple and clear terms. It is difficult to believe that while our Nation affords someone accused of a criminal act fundamental protections before they can be found guilty and spend just several months in jail – we do little to define similar protections to parents and children facing a lifetime of separation.

In a Nation so concerned with "equality" – we fail to recognize and protect the value of both parents in the lives of their children – and the value of a child in the life of a parent.

Each state has the ability to establish its own criminal code and procedures, but is still required to remain within the U.S. Constitutions guarantees of: a presumption of innocence, real proof, and the protection of a Jury. There has been an explosion in well intentioned Family Law produced in each state, but without the firm guidance of our Constitution. The words "best interest of the child" have been used to justify any state action. WE ARE NOT calling for MORE FEDERAL INTERFERENCE, but less. The recognition of established constitutional protections to protect families.

Your Leadership & Raising the Issue

Is this an issue worth raising? I myself have to admit I didn't give it much thought for a great deal of my life – until it happened to me and I felt the gut-wrenching pain of being declared a 'visitor' to the son I love very much. Until I went through the 'system' myself, I would not have believed the things I saw were possible.

I certainly hope you can do better than most of us, and become a proponent of reform without watching your family go through a personal nightmare first.

Is the time right? We are asking you to take the time to listen and see what is really happening - and to also draw analogy to the past. As you consider the many Members of Congress who have proceeded you in this Nation's history.

Have you ever wondered what those members were thinking of TWENTY years before:

- Slaves was set free.
- Women were granted the right to vote.
- Segregation was ended.

What would the response have been by you and your staff to:

- A slave coming to your office and asking you to protect their right to be free?
- A woman asking for the simple right to vote?
- A black asking to sit in the front of the bus?

Would you have told them to go back, get better organized (and maybe - you have to wait for another crisis to be solved?). We all like to be "proactive." Would you have taken the risk and lead on the issue before the rest of the Nation was ready to follow? The "Freedom Riders" sat in the front of the bus and were hauled off to jail. Do we have to make that same peaceful sacrifice for the love of our children also?

We only ask the same principles used to protect liberty, also protect the bond between parents and children (probably an even more valued freedom) - the presumption of equal parenting, real proof, and the protection of a Jury.

I called the Syracuse office last week about setting up a meeting with staff. I was told to send in a letter describing our issues first. I look forward to meeting some of you and answering your questions soon.

Respectfully yours,

John Murtari
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315-430-2702

Declaration of Family Rights

That when a child is born, both biological parents have a right to know. A child has a right to both parents in their lives. Fit parents decide what is in the 'best interests' of their children. Good, average, & poor parents are Fit & Equal parents.

That both parents have a right to be presumed Fit & Equal parents (in terms of both physical and legal custody).

If anyone (a spouse, relative, social services) wishes to challenge these rights, you have:

- 1) The right to counsel.
- 2) The right to be presumed a fit parent, innocent, and deserving of an equal relationship with your kids.
- 3) The right to protection of a criminal jury. The "state" needs to prove you were a demonstrated serious and intentional threat to your child's safety and that you acted with mal-intent towards your children.

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