

34 Franklin Street
Lyons, NY 14489
April 28, 2014

Senator Charles Schumer,
Senator Kirsten Gillibrand:

This is an appeal from Mothers and Fathers seeking reform of our Nation's Family Law "systems." On May 9th, the Friday before Mother's day, a group of [Moms and Dads will write "I LOVE YOU"](#) to their children with kid's chalk on the plaza ground outside the Syracuse Federal Building. Why take such actions?

Love. We ask you to appreciate the agony of parents and children unjustly separated — without the need for first hand experience. In the same way I hope you would have been able to appreciate the horrors of slavery, the injustice of being denied the right to vote, and the indignity of being seated at the "back of the bus."

As parents we hope you will exercise leadership to guide us in a struggle some see as contentious, but doesn't have to be so. That as a Mother and a Father you can make a joint statement and use your tremendous resources to help shape and educate public opinion.

I hope you will take the time to carefully review the [Declaration of Family Rights and the personal petitions we have posted](#). We are mothers and fathers asking you to call for Congressional hearings into the need for a Family Rights Act.

I noted with some irony Members of Congress calling for hearings to discuss the nature of military tribunals to be used in the War on Terrorism. To apply our Constitution's greatest protections — the standards of "proof beyond reasonable doubt" and "unanimous verdict of a jury" to these actions. Don't the parents and children of this country deserve a discussion of those very same protections before being separated for potentially a life time?

It seems we have a problem of "priority" and of "size". Right now we appear to be such a small group and I'm sure you all have very busy staffs. Some would say we need to do a better job of organizing and presenting the issues (and there is some truth there). I hope this letter will cause you to reconsider the amount of initiative and leadership you may be able to show. We are committed to the principles of NonViolent Action; that Faith, Love, and Sacrifice can make a difference. But we sure can use your help!

The issue is Civil Rights

Why do some of us risk jail and why are we asking for your help? Which is worse, not knowing your child is seriously ill or just being asked to ride in the "back of the bus." *In similar words used by Abraham Lincoln to describe the institution of slavery, "Many people like the concept of the Non Custodial Parent, but I have yet to find a mother or father who wanted to be one."*

We ask each of you to please take the time to give us a response to this letter that we can share with our membership.

Best regards!

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