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Senator, 29th District

Testimony in Support of Bill 204

Senate Judiciary Committee

March 18, 2015

Good morning, Chair Senator Jeff King, Vice-Chair Greg Smith, and Ranking Member David Haley and members of the committee.

Mr. Chair, thank you for holding this hearing on Senate Bill 204.

I support this bill for the following two reasons:

First, this bill would rectify a problem that is still occurring as described in the video below documenting the situation of Marc and Melissa Kemp:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PevSPTYMm7I>

Second, this bill would provide a mechanism to ensure that visitations with biological parents—something we all agree is crucial to ongoing family relationships—are maximized. Biological parents often must go to great lengths to arrive at visits on time, taking time off work and taking one or more public buses. If parents are working to meet the goals we've set for them and are wanting to actively participate in their children's lives, we should help them in that process.

Third, my goal is not to inconvenience foster parents or social workers. It is to make the process work better for all involved especially if biological parents are doing their part of reaching the goal of becoming responsible parents and strengthening the bonds between children and families. Mr. Chair and committee members, that should be our ultimate goal as well.

Thank you for your time and attention, and I urge you to support this bill.

Senator Faust-Goudeau
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