

CHILD WELFARE TESTIMONY 3-31-2025

KATHY WINTERS

DCF AND PRIVATE CONTRACTORS, KVC and Ember Hope Youthville: It's never been about the safety of the child(ren).. because if it were, children wouldn't be removed on hearsay. Physical, factual proof of abuse would be needed, not just hearsay and not just a mere thought by a caseworker that something may have happened or may happen in the future. Children are being removed from good parents and many times placed back with the abusive parent. Many times this is with the father because the money the state receives is better when children are placed with the father. This is not necessarily what is best for the child, but what is best for the state (MONEY).

If it were really about the safety of the child, social workers would not have quotas that they have to meet on removals. Social workers would not have to sign CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENTS. I have talked with DCF and KVC caseworkers who have confided in me that they had information that needed to be exposed but because they had signed this confidentiality agreement, they could be sued if they exposed these malfeasant and horrible things perpetrated on families and children. (I'm retired from a police department, and in all my 14 years there, I was NEVER forced to sign a confidentiality agreement.) There would be no need for social workers' reports to be sealed, if caseworkers were not hiding something.

Children's identity SHOULDN'T be available to anyone. Assign their initials and the last 4 digits of their social security # for identity. That way so many children wouldn't get lost in this broken system.

And if it were really about the safety of the child, so many agencies wouldn't be profiting from the removal of the child. KVC, the last time I could see their budget, budgeted one million dollars (\$1,000,000.000) for lobbyists to help them keep their contracts going with the state. KVC does not post their budget anymore nor how much they pay their 10 board members. I know that a former board member, Copeland, received \$100,000.00 a year besides his salary as mayor of Olathe, Kansas. KVC, a non-profit 501(c)(3)tax exempt since February 1969, has a revenue of \$62.2 Million. The salaries are astronomical for the administration of KVC. I wonder about the salaries of Hope Youthville If the states' are contracted with these agencies, they have a right to know.

Better yet, let's have a severe penalty for all agencies and individuals involved in the wrongful removal of the child. Let's say, anytime a child is wrongfully removed by the social workers and those involved lose licenses and the agency suffers a high fine..after all this damage to a child(ren) and the destruction of a family. That should never be tolerated. The court system is

also to blame and receives their fair share of the blame and profit for the removal of a child. Parents and children should have rights, not those who have illegally removed those children from their families. For example, when a CINC judge prevented parents their "due process" by sending the parent's attorney to contact the parents BEFORE ANY HEARING. The judge had told the parent's attorney to tell the parent that the judge had already made the decision to sever their rights to their children before any hearing which is an obvious violation of their due process and the judge said the parent(s) needed to relinquish their rights before any hearing but if the parents would relinquish their parental rights BEFORE THE HEARING, they might be able to see their children SOME DAY!!

To save children in the beginning from having to go into stranger foster care or sleep in offices, contact grandparent or relative, have them sign a waiver and take their information to any police department, have an officer check them in Alert and if no concerns there, give that child(ren) to them. Then send off for a KBI report which can take weeks or months to receive the report. What state and private contractors are doing is wrong - They are placing the emphasis on money and not the child. Lift that "veil of secrecy" that some have enjoyed way too long. Let's have a committee truly and ethically investigate these agencies profiting off of child trafficking. Or if the state will not investigate, then maybe DOGE should get involved.

I have so much, SO MUCH more information that needs to be shared with this committee. As I have been told by several DCF and KVC caseworkers to shut up and sit down and that I am either with them or against them!

When children are taken from their families, they experience separation anxiety, Stockholm Syndrome and only bond with the stranger foster home to survive as if being kidnapped. The children experience post traumatic stress as a soldier does in war and their family members experience this also which can last a lifetime. A child's brain growth does not develop correctly, I have heard and seen children who are four or five years of age that can't even walk, but crawl and can't even talk coherently. Children have unnecessarily died in foster care such as Cindy Poe's 6 month old grandbaby who died in a hot car so that two foster dads could eat pizza and smoke marijuana. Cindy was never given a reason why she could not have placement of her "Bunny".

When representatives of these agencies that have complete control and remove these children testify before you today and tell you what a great job they are doing and tell you that they are doing EVERYTHING correctly, don't believe them because all they care about is keeping the money flow as they use these children as a cash cow and keep everything "business as usual" and care not about the children. They are lying to you!!"

Kathy Winters

kathywinters05@yahoo.com

