

EXHIBIT 1

DATE 1-31-05

HB HB 420

To whom it may concern:

With regrets I am unable to attend this hearing concerning bill 420, but would like to express my interest in having it passed. I am a single mother of two whom I have raised alone for the last five years. They are both incredible young adults now. In April of 2004, my two nieces were put into foster care Michaila 4years and Isabella 1year. Before court proceedings I expressed an interest in having the girls live with me so that they didn't have to be with strangers I have been a constant person in their lives interacting with them often. I did everything that was required for family placement I had a criminal background search, I was fingerprinted, my home was inspected my income was explored as well as my children. After all the investigating was completed it was turned over to the county attorney whom was all for the children being placed with me. I was very excited about this news my four year old niece was even told that she would be coming to stay with me and asked many, many times when she got to come to live with me. The social worker involved in the case called me to and set up the time to go meet with her to complete the process. On the day of the scheduled meeting she called and she had to cancel, that she had an emergency that couldn't wait and that she would call me back to reschedule. I never did get that call. After days of waiting I began to call her with no response after leaving many messages my parents called her supervisor who did then call me I asked her when they were planning to place the girls with me and she stated that they had changed their mind the girls would stay in foster care not because of me, my home or my life style they simply changed their minds with no explanation or reasoning. I feel this is very unfair to the children who would benefit by being placed with their family. And believe that a reasonable explanation why a child would not be placed with a family member should be required.

Sincerely,

Cindy Reinhardt