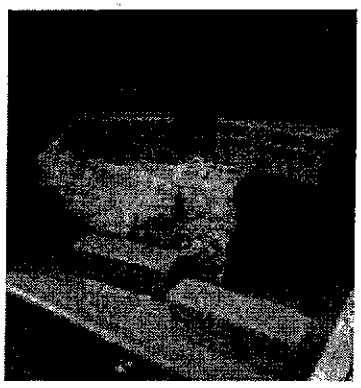
Ex #1
Anderson

EXHIBIT NO. 1
DATE: 3-2-5
BILL NO. HB 68

ALABAMA WATCH
412 N. HULL STREET, MONTGOMERY,
WEBSITE: WWW.ALABAMAWATCH.ORG

Summer, 2004



Brick by Brick

SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE 2004 REPORT

BABY DOUGLAS BILL PASSES!

Nobody thought that a new consumer group, a couple of citizens and a freshman Republican representative could get a law passed in the first year.

They didn't know Alabama Watch.

When Attorney Greg Breedlove of Mobile contacted Alabama Watch, he asked us to help Mary and Robert Hernandez get a measure of justice. Their son, Douglas, was just 10 weeks old when he died while in daycare in Mobile. "We left a perfectly healthy baby", said Robert, "And That afternoon, he died".

Originally ruled a SIDS death, the Hernandez family pushed for an investigation, but was told that no criminal laws had been broken. So they set out to investigate on their own, and found that baby Douglas had died with 4 different kinds of over the counter cold medication in his system, and that the medication had been administered while the baby was in daycare.

The Hernandez family is determined to spare other families a similar tragedy, and they wanted to make the administering of medication to children to alter behavior a crime. They called on Alabama Watch to help. Because of a funding crisis, it was a tough decision, but we had made a pledge to protect the frailest of our consumers... our kids and our elderly...and we took on the task of helping the Hernandez family wade through the legislative maze. It was a blessing when Senator Roger Smitherman stepped up to the plate to lead the effort in the Senate, and he and Rep. Spencer Collier put partisan politics aside to work on the bill. Their example inspired other legislators to do the same

Governor Riley signed the bill the same day, thanking the Hernandez family for their countless trips to Montgomery, and for their dedication.

Alabama Watch was not alone. Help from Voices for Alabama's Children, FOCAL and the Alabama Trial Lawyer Association made this miracle possible.

Read more about the Baby Douglas Law at www.alabamawatch.org

ALABAMA WATCH LAUNCHES ARBITRATION PROJECT

"Arbitration is now part of nearly every business transaction from putting your loved one in a nursing home to purchasing a car. We want to hear from consumers about their experiences."

Barbara Evans,
Executive Director
Alabama Watch

Alabama Watch is about to launch a year-long study of the results of consumer arbitration on Alabama citizens.

"We want to hear from Alabamians about their first hand experiences with consumer arbitration", said Barbara Evans. "Now that we know that court cases are not out of control, and are in fact decreasing at quite a brisk pace, let's see if arbitration is all that its proponents say it is." Alabama Watch has long argued that consumers end up paying much more up-front costs to use arbitration than to file a case in court, and that the playing field is not level with arbitration because business usually gets to pick the arbitrator, who nearly always rules in favor of that business.

"We are willing to hear both sides of the story and report it accurately to consumers", states Evans. "We invite those with actual experience to contact our Grassroots Coordinator, Andrea Price, at our toll-free number of 1-800-449-7515.