



April 8, 2015

Chair Alissa Keny-Guyer
House Committee Human Services and Housing
900 Court St. - State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Alissa and members of the Committee:

My name is Twyla Pew. I am a Child Protective Services Worker at Department of Human Services/Child Welfare Program. I am also a member of SEIU Local 503. I would like to provide testimony in support of HB 3391.

This issue is personally very important to me because of my own experience. Late in 2011, I removed a child due to child safety concerns as part of my job. Almost immediately this person started making threats against me and brought to our initial court hearing some pictures of my daughter, found on the internet.

Approximately two weeks after removal I learned the parent had gone to my house and sat in my driveway trying to get my attention. This client called the Governor's Advocacy Office as well as her new caseworker and said she had bought my personal information for \$.99 on the internet and has been driving by my house and described one of the vehicles in my driveway. She also made threats of killing my daughter and myself. I received a phone call from this parent who told me she would kill my daughter so I could feel what it's like to live without my child. This parent also told me she had marriage, birth, and address/phone numbers of my family. I took a day off work so I could file for a stalking order as I feared for my and my family's lives.

I spoke to some attorneys who suggested I take counsel to court because it will be an actual hearing and stalking orders are hard to get because they are a lifetime order. I asked one of my program managers if I could use the Department of Justice to help me in court. I was told, "No, what would public perception be if we used public funds for personal matters."

I had to retain and pay for my own attorney in order to keep my family safe. Luckily I had just gotten my tax refund back so I had the \$500 to pay for the attorney. I also had to use my own time to gather information and go to court.

The stalking order was granted, but it was little comfort. This parent had visits with the child in the office. I was asked to leave approximately an hour before the visit was to happen and come back at least an hour after it

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was to end. These visits occurred twice a week and my work schedule was compromised. There are two other offices in my county where these visits could have taken place.

In 2012 the stalking order was violated by this parent. She called and left a message on my supervisor's phone saying, "Either you take care of her or I will." In 2013 I received a phone call from a person who presented as being the parent's ex-roommate. During my phone conversation this roommate described my daughter's appearance, explained this parent had spent all of her time searching things on the internet. I was also given my address and had my house described to me as well. The roommate also explained detailed plans by this person to "burn my house and shoot my daughter and myself as we run out."

In the past three years I have been constantly looking over my shoulder and get up in the middle of the night still to check on my daughter. I live in a small community 30 miles from Eugene and still feel today I can't let my 11 year old ride her bike out of my sight. It was very difficult to have a conversation with my, then 8 year old, daughter about this person who is wanting to hurt the family. My daughter drew pictures of the person being dead and she told me this would help save our family.

Thank you for taking the time to read my story. I urge you to support HB 3391.