

Committee members:

As a former foster parent (1986-1992) I support the general goals of SB 632. I adopted a foster child in 1989 and he has five children by three women, none of whom he is married to. I'm sure that my son's unstable lifestyle is largely the result of emotional and physical abuse suffered in the first six years of his life. As a grandparent, I think about our foster care system almost every day.

However, SB 632 seems to be missing a significant element. It calls for pilot programs without stating what the intervention will be. Is there a hypothesis to be tested? The bill doesn't say. What will be the differences between the control group and the treatment group? The bill doesn't say. What's the proposed methodology? The bill doesn't say.

Foster parenting is very complex. It will be daunting to design a pilot project that will generate statistically valid results that can be used by policy makers. I hope before you act on this bill, you have a detailed conversation with someone at DHS to determine what the proposed work plan is, and to see if the price tag fits the program.

Sincerely,

John A. Charles
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