

Dear Senator Gesler,

My name is Jennifer Barton, I'm writing you as I see you're passionate about adolescent group homes.

I'm a mother of a child that was tortured and abused at a group home currently under federal investigation. (Sealed). There's widespread abuse happening in these homes, treatment centers and boarding schools.

The background that led us to this home, was through the public school system. My daughter was struggling with a breakup that led to some poor decisions, depression and rebellion. The school was concerned, told me I needed to get her outside residential help. Using fear tactics of losing parental rights. I went to a website for troubled teens. The questionnaire was basically a road map to the weak points in our family history, which would later be used to alienate us and break our strong mlm/daughter bond.

My daughter was barely 15, breakup depression a freshman in a new school that wanted help. She came out 11 days later with 2nd & 3rd degree burns, 14lbs lighter, severe trauma and now suffered from depression, ptsd, schizoaffective disorder, delusions and disassociation. The help I sought for her has now been what had created a broken individual. Who's terrified of seeking help again. She's now 19 , an adult and maladapted.

Our trust was broken by this place, how can she trust me when I sent her and they did everything possible to alienate her from me. Told her I didn't want her, told her we moved, they were going to emancipate her. It took us and the sheriff's department 4 hours to get her comfortable enough to come with me. She had Stockholm syndrome. She wanted to stay.

These adolescents centers are poorly regulated in every state. The sinister person running it already did bad acts in the UK and convicted there for violating rights of mentally ill patients. How he was able to come the US and Open up multiple facilities all over the us is beyond reprehensible.

I pray, your efforts as well as Paris creates the much needed regulations and policies to keep our children safe in schools, mental health facilities, group homes.

The status of the federal case is still ongoing , sadly I think the person will not ever be held accountable for the crimes committed on my child and many others. It seems like it's geared toward white collar health crime charges.

I wanted nothing more then to be a mom and a darn good one. This has shattered our world. I would love to see some changes for other little girls and boys like mine. I don't want what happened to these children to go in vain. This isn't new , it's underreported. It's hard to prove it's a child's who has struggles credibility over these "professionals".

I could go on and on about what's been discovered and how I help now. It's hard to break through the red tape and get civil or criminal justice or attention in these cases. I'm so happy to see someone like Paris speak out.

Thanks for making this a passion for you, I appreciate anything you can do or create to protect these children.

If I can be of assistance or would like more information that drives this egregious behavior. I would be happy to help and share what I've discovered through this process.