

Written testimony

March 14, 2022

Chairman Concannon and House Committee Members

I am a blind mother and grandmother writing to you for support of SB 276.

My three daughters are now in their mid/late 40's. I was fortunate to be able stay home with them during their early childhood and teens before entering the workforce. While my husband worked in the school system, I cared for and played with our children. Because of my blindness, I did not drive, so cooked most of our meals. By marking my oven, for example, with little sticky Braille dots, I could easily know the desired temperature. I organized my kitchen for safety and convenience. We used such easy techniques as always eating at the kitchen table in order to cut down on spills and crumbs throughout the house...as I was also the "house cleaner". As for knowing if the kids actually washed their hands before sitting down at the table, I would check them out by smelling them. If they did not smell or feel clean, back to the bathroom to wash again. It is somewhat the same for keeping a clean house. Rather than a visual check on things, a finger touch or smell would tell if things needed cleaning. Since I live in Kansas where the wind is always blowing dust and my family consisted of three kids, two cats and a husband, I generally assumed the house needed frequent cleanings.

I spent a lot of time with my children. It was pretty easy to determine when they were up to mischief as they would get really quiet. We would walk together holding hands, talking and singing, I could also hear their footsteps, so I was always aware of where they were. We had rules when playing with neighborhood kids, they mostly came to our house where it was easy to keep track of them. We just made sure there were lots of snacks!

My children were just like others in many ways as they sometimes were bratty. We had talks about these bad behavior's and had time outs and periodic "groundings". On the whole, our family life was pretty typical of others in the neighborhood. I count these years as such a blessing and know that my parenting capabilities are not unusual for blind parenting. Please support SB276 which ensures, otherwise good parents, that are blind or have low vision, to retain their children from old, misguided beliefs.

This bill passed unanimously through the senate.

Thank-you
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Typed by Susan L. Stanzel