

We are writing this letter in support of House Bill 2233 (Protective Parent Reform Act). We as grandparents want to tell a little about our daughter's case. Her parental rights were severed on June 16, 2011. She isn't a drug addict nor an alcoholic. She isn't an abusive mother. The only thing she did is turn in her ex-husband for abuse of her children. She wasn't the only one to turn in abuse on him. There were professionals that turned it in, also. For example, the children's therapist, their doctor, daycare provider, court appointed therapist and we as grandparents. When SRS took the children on 9/10/2009 from both the mother and father, we wrote a request asking for custody. We also emailed a request and asked in person for custody. We were told we wouldn't be considered to have custody of the children, because we had turned in abuse against the father. The mediator and the Judge sent out a court order, which stated, "that our daughter, nor her family could file any abuse charges against the father." This order violated our Constitutional rights. There should be a law that, when a parent is on trial for *termination of parental rights*, it should be trial by jury. Not just one person (judge) making such a crucial decision. It affects many lives, especially the children.

We have not seen our grandchildren for almost two years. When they took our daughter's rights away, they took the whole family's rights away. THIS IS CHILD ABUSE in our opinion!

We are asking you, as legislators, to seriously consider house bill 2233 so that children in the future do not suffer as our grandchildren have and still are.

Thank you so much for taking time to read this.

Leroy and Mary Stockemer

Hutchinson, KS