

PETITION 5
PETITION FOR REDRESS OF GRIEVANCE

TO: The Honorable House of Representatives
FROM: Petitioner Representative Peter Silva, Hills. 26
DATE: September 24, 2009
SUBJECT: Grievance of Patricia Patterson, Nashua, New Hampshire

Whereas, the New Hampshire Bill of Rights at Article 2, Part First of the New Hampshire Constitution provides that "All men have certain natural, essential, and inherent rights - among which are, the enjoying and defending life and liberty; acquiring, possessing, and protecting, property; and, in a word, of seeking and obtaining happiness. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by this state on account of race, creed, color, sex or national origin;" and

Whereas, the New Hampshire Bill of Rights at Article 12, Part First of the New Hampshire Constitution provides that "Every member of the community has a right to be protected by it, in the enjoyment of his life, liberty, and property;" and

Whereas, the New Hampshire Bill of Rights at Article 32, Part First of the New Hampshire Constitution provides that "The people have a right, in an orderly and peaceable manner, to assemble and consult upon the common good, give instructions to their representatives, and to request of the legislative body, by way of petition or remonstrance, redress of the wrongs done them, and of the grievances they suffer;" and

Whereas, the New Hampshire Bill of Rights at Article 31, Part First of the New Hampshire Constitution provides that "The legislature shall assemble for the redress of public grievances and for making such laws as the public good may require;"

Now, Therefore, your Petitioner, Representative Silva on behalf of Patricia Patterson, hereinafter presents the particulars of her grievance against the State of New Hampshire, Department of Health and Human Services Division of Children, Youth, and Families and invokes the constitutional authority and duty of the Honorable House of Representatives pursuant to said Articles 31 and 32 to bring about their redress:

1. Patricia Patterson was the foster mother of [REDACTED] for 19 months, but was refused placement of [REDACTED] because it exceeded the legal number of placements in her home. [REDACTED] was placed with [REDACTED]. After her older children moved out, Patricia Patterson sought open adoption of [REDACTED] with the consent of their parents [REDACTED]

2. After Patricia Patterson sought adoption of both children, [REDACTED] was removed from her home against the express opinion of the children's Guardian Ad Litem, and her parents and contrary to court orders, the Division of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) removed Violette from her placement with Patricia Patterson.

3. DCYF is proceeding with the adoption of both children by [REDACTED]
4. [REDACTED] are being denied a relationship with their natural parents and extended family, which would have been provided in the adoption plan of Patricia Patterson.

Wherefore, your Petitioner prays that the House of Representatives:

- A. Accept the within Petition for Redress of Grievance for enrollment and by vote of the House of Representatives appoint a committee to hold public hearings and examine the circumstances hereof; and following such hearings and examination, recommend to the full House of Representatives that it:
- B. Amend the laws of the State to prohibit and punish the removal of children from their home without a court order except in exigent circumstances.

Respectfully Submitted by Petitioner Representative Silva on behalf of Patricia Patterson.

**Co-Petitioner:
Rep. Itse, Rock. 9**

September 24, 2009