

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Judiciary Committee and Guests:

I am Dr. Richard Dunsmore of Coatesville, Pennsylvania, a retired Internist and Cardiologist who practiced in Chester County for 32 years. During these years, on many occasions, I heard painful tales from isolated patients concerning false accusations of sexual or physical abuse of children. Having complete faith in our democratic system, I initially did not take these complaints seriously. Subsequently, personal experience, as well as interviews with numerous people, has totally changed my mind.

The repetition of history is a well known phenomenon. Who would have predicted that in 1993 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania would permit the hysteria and ignorance that was exhibited in the Salem Witch trials of 1692 ?

House Bill 826, if passed, would redress some of these violations of the constitutional rights of our citizens who are currently fettered by a governmental body that assumes guilt before innocence.

Falsely accused on 5 separate occasions of both physical and sexual abuse of my grandchildren, eventual exoneration did not relieve the months of frustration, anxiety and despair that these accusations produced. Only the innocent, falsely accused can convey the personal distress and anger so generated.

In our county, many schools have posted squeal boxes. If a student receives a poor grade, you may be assured that his teacher may well be reported for classroom abuse, thus inviting inquiries by Children/Youth Services. If your neighbor dislikes your dog or you have a boundary dispute, a complaint against you for abusing your child will ensure weeks or months of harassment by Children/Youth Services. Worse, some innocent victims are badgered by CYS and urged to plead guilty in order to avoid jail terms ! This is followed by enrolling the victim in a CYS-designed programs to "rehabilitate" the victim at a personal weekly cost, the payments expanding the coffers of the accusing agency.

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Based upon false information, children are often removed from loving families and are placed in remote locations and in substandard living conditions . These have been categorized by our group as "Orphanages for children with parents".

The frequency of these accusations with deleterious results to children and families has led over 50 families in Chester County to band together and form the FAMILIES FOR FREEDOM. It is our concerted effort to acquaint our legislators with the problems. We strongly support House Bill 826 as a first step toward the restoration of democracy by setting forth punishment to those who would abuse the system with frivolous and /or malicious accusations!

Following this, we would encourage the removal of power-mad supervisors who are more interested in increasing Commonwealth and Federal funding to enhance their private fiefdom, rather than concentrating on the care of our children and keeping the family intact. Futhermore, it is essential to eliminate poorly trained, poorly motivated caseworkers , devious psychologists and lawyers, masters and judges feeding at the public`trough with little or no concern for children and their families.

It has been well documented by us that most cases of false accusations are initiated by misguided zealots and vindictive spouses, but add to this list the ill-trained, self-important case workers who are aided and abetted by a secret, closed court hearing with ensuing deleterious results.

Those opposed to Bill 826 are captured in Lady Macbeth's advice to her infamous husband: "Look like the innocent flower but be the serpent beneath it." She further suggested how difficult it is to wipe away the stain of violent politics, though it is appropriate to note that she quickly boasted: " What need we fear who knows it when none can call our power to account."

Thank you.

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THE SHREDDING OF FAMILIES

George Orwell's disturbing novel, " 1984 " , predicted dire events to be in place by that year. Mockery was to replace democracy as citizens' rights were replaced by a monolithic government. His predictions were accurate, but this diminution of liberty was so subtly introduced that its arrival escaped all but the most astute. Observe what is happening to education and what has already occurred to family values under the dictatorship of Children/Youth Services.

This tax-financed program has grown like a giant amoeba feasting upon families, and as it ingests additional children, parents and grandparents, it grows in size. Its insatiable appetite increases its strength both in numbers and money.

1. CYS TACTICS

Blemishes already perpetuated include the development of Gestapo-like tactics wherein children are snatched from families, often taken from schools, often without prior notification or hearing. Many of these children, " saved " by CYS, are transplanted to foster facilities many miles away from their homes, friends and families. Such facilities should be labeled "concentration camps" possessing primitive living conditions. Children are poorly supervised, poorly educated, medical and dental care substandard, and nutrition deficient. They are brainwashed, exposed to foul language, introduced to pornography, smoking and drugs.

One well documented case, a child of 15, was forcibly removed from her family because of school absences although they were illnesses documented by letters from her doctor. The depression she suffered upon separation from her family was treated by an antidepressant drug. Not only was this drug not indicated, but dosage was in excess of that recommended by the Physicians'

Desk Reference. She received 1 hour of schooling and over 6 hours of television daily. As a result, upon returning to her family, she was unable to graduate with her high school class.

One child, falsely accused of trauncy, has been held " hostage " for 5 years having been incarcerated by CYS since age 9. In this period of time, she has been shunted through 15 foster care facilities and 12 schools . While living with her grandparent, she was an honor student. Under the tutelage of CYS, she is a straight D student. Her dreams of entering college have been shattered, and she can only look forward to being a dependent of the state in her adult life.

Another child, age 15, was placed on birth control pills because a vaginal yeast infection was erroneously diagnosed by a caseworker as an indication of sexual promiscuity !

In all cases, medications have been ignorantly prescribed without consultation nor approval of the family or even the family physician. Children are punished and threatened with punishment if they object to or attempt to avoid the improper activities that are foisted upon them by CYS. Children are brainwashed and advised to report their parents or grandparents of any act of discipline . It is now commonplace for children remaining at home to threaten their families with CYS intervention upon the slightest correction of bad behavior. Children are encouraged to spy upon their parents and grandparents and report all activities to CYS and the psychologist involved. Further examples are readily available.

2. CYS IS IGNORANT

The average caseworkers have a bachelor's degree, may be unmarried, and if married, may have no children, yet they persist in polly-parroting the one dose of brainwashing they possess. They presume to know more than the parents who have years of parenting skills and /or advanced educational degrees. They insist on parenting classes that are poorly supervised and improperly conducted.

Although poorly trained and inadequately supervised, they blithely continue their blundering ways, enslaving children, destroying families as well as financially bankrupting the families' breadwinners.

3. CYS IS ARROGANT

Their investigations and actions are rampant with threats of removing all children if their most complex demands are not met. They force families to suffer the indignities of undesired household visitors under the guise of teaching an established family how to clean and cook ! Such individuals can be classified as Gestapo spies for CYS. They poke and pry into all corners, open refrigerators and drawers, violating one's privacy. They attach adverse importance to books in the library, books they have never read.

They deprive children of additional education and family activities by insisting they attend summer sessions of CYS-sponsored plans which is nothing more than babysitting under the guise of " worthwhile endeavors" and at taxpayers' expense.

They force children into afterschool activities when the children and family prefer to share their time with each other. They humiliate children and their families at home, in the undesirable foster care facilities and enforce it in the gerrymandered court rooms.

In 1993, as predicted by the novel, " 1984 " , CYS has successfully managed to develop an organization comprising the combined powers of legislative, judicial and executive branches to the detriment of our citizens and a blow to our colonial ancestors who fought so hard to establish freedom from tyranny !

A rule is established by CYS and adherence is required or punishment follows as CYS sees fit, always to the detriment of the children and families. The juvenile court provides a mockery of justice. CYS attorneys freely enter the judge's chambers during hearings; psychologists breach the confidentiality of families by consorting with the judge and CYS. Such hearings are improperly transcribed and even altered, a direct violation of the Bill of Rights and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Too often decisions are

The Shredding of Families (Dunsmore and Dunsmore)

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made prior to the completion of the hearings !

Under the guise of restoring families, CYS routinely destroys them, unconcerned with the horrible aftermath suffered by the children so manipulated. The emotional scars will remain forever !

CYS must be curbed. Infringement of citizens' inalienable rights must be corrected. From the Director down, there must be a housecleaning procedure to provide new faces truly dedicated to the children who are so cruelly mistreated physically, mentally and morally. The use of the Accreditation Committee of the Child Welfare League of America* , based in Washington, DC, should be mandatory in view of the huge budgets allocated to the agencies. In Chester County , the budget stands at \$20,000,000 !

To the advisors of CYS, the Commissioners and all legislators, we recommend the following reading:

Wounded Innocents by Richard Wexler

The Child Abuse Industry by Mary Pride

Along with this, we urge the investigation of the large volume of evidence acquired by the Families For Freedom . This group of aggrieved families has pledged to dedicate itself to reforming the laws (Mondale Act) that have conferred immunity upon CYS allowing it to destroy families and deny them their constitutional rights.

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