

Joan Petersen
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LD 1233

Dear Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and esteemed members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

I write you in support of LD1233 as ought to pass.

The abysmal record of child deaths while under the supervision of the Department of Human Services cries out for reform. Our children deserve every aide we can give them while under our care.

You can improve the decision making process in the Department by allowing all testimony in the child placement process. Now there are instances of known prior domestic and/or substance abuse by an individual who is being considered for custody in which the testimony is prohibited due to confidentiality laws. This bill seeks redress and allows such testimony to be considered. Certainly the decision makers have critical thinking and discernment in determining the veracity of any and all testimony. If they are blind to all possible evidence via testimony, how can they make the best decision? I urge you to contemplate and make a decision to support the best outcomes for our children.