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LD 1409

Public Comment in Support of LD 1409

I am writing to express my strong support for LD 1409, which seeks to grant foster parents who have cared for a child for a continuous period of one year or more the same rights as adult relatives of the child.

This amendment is a crucial step in recognizing the invaluable role that foster parents play in the lives of children in need. Foster parents often provide stable, loving homes and develop strong bonds with the children they care for. Acknowledging their contributions by granting them similar rights as relatives is essential for valuing their efforts and ensuring the best interests of the child.

Children benefit immensely from continuity and stability in their living arrangements. Ensuring that foster parents have rights similar to relatives can help maintain consistent care for children, reducing the risk of multiple relocations. If kinship placements do not work out, children may face the risk of being relocated to multiple families, which can be disruptive and detrimental to their emotional and psychological well-being. Granting foster parents similar rights can help prevent such disruptions.

Furthermore, this amendment promotes fairness and aligns foster parent rights with best practices in child welfare. Foster parents who have cared for a child for a year or more have developed a significant bond with the child, and this bond is crucial for the child's development. Recognizing the rights of long-term foster parents is a step towards ensuring that children receive the care and stability they need.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to pass LD 1409. It is a necessary and compassionate measure that will benefit children, foster parents, and the child welfare system as a whole.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Chelsea Amaio