

34 Franklin St.
Lyons, NY 14489
April 9, 2007

James Hoffman
Chairman, Wayne County Board of Supervisors
26 Church St.
Lyons, NY 14489

Dear Mr. Hoffman,

I want to follow up with you on the Parental Birth Notification resolution that I sent you last month. The resolution was discussed by two committees. I'm pleased with how it was handled by Supervisor LeRoy and the Rules Committee. I am very concerned with how I was treated by Supervisor Plant and the Social Services Committee and that prompted this letter and request for your action.

When I called Mr. Plant in mid March, I felt I was being given the 'brush off.' His initial response was that he didn't like it at all and was going to informally talk it over with the others and let me know the decision. I had to press to say I wanted it discussed at a regular meeting (in line with state open meeting laws). I told him I'd like to make a brief presentation to the members and he told me that probably wouldn't happen, that I had no 'right' to talk at a committee meeting even if I had introduced the resolution (this really confused me). He wanted to know what special education I had to even bring up such an issue. If I wanted to speak as a 'citizen' that could only happen at the monthly Board of Supervisors meeting. He gave me the date and location of the next committee meeting and told me I could be there just to listen.

I went to the Social Services meeting last Wednesday (April 4th), it didn't appear that my resolution was even on the agenda. At the very end it came up and he asked Supervisor Fabino to talk about it, but he didn't have much to say and Mr. Fabino said I was in the room and he should just let me talk. Reluctantly, Mr. Plant said I could have a few minutes. I made a very brief presentation.

Mr. Hammond, I expected serious questions and what I seemed to get from two of the members, Supervisor Park and Supervisor Jenkins was ridicule. Mr. Jenkins wanted to ask me if I had spent time in jail (which is chronicled at the AKidsRight.Org web site), but didn't have time to hear the full answer. Ms. Park repeatedly emphasized that this whole resolution was to reward promiscuous behavior and was ridiculous and a waste of time. In a few minutes Mr. Plant brought a disorganized discussion to a close with the idea that it was not their issue and to just forward it to the Rules & Legislation committee. He asked if anyone had input into a message they should send along with the resolution and Ms. Park said "yes, it's ridiculous". None of the committee members disagreed.

Thankfully, this was in great contrast to the Rules committee which met the next day. I had also discussed this with Mr. LeRoy earlier and he expressed his concerns and I answered his questions. He had no problem with putting it on the agenda and me speaking to the committee to introduce it. I spoke to the members and answered their questions.

It was tabled for further discussion. I told Mr. LeRoy I would like to be at those meetings

and he said it wasn't a problem and that I would get notification. I was very pleased that it was being handled openly & fairly.

I hope you will explore what happened. I certainly don't expect people to vote 'yes' or 'no', but I do expect a fair process and certainly we all deserve courteous and respectful treatment. Obviously, I'm a grown man and have learned that you just let some things go – everyone has a bad day and I've had my share, but I certainly would not want to see anyone else from the community treated as I was by the 'Social Services' committee.

I do not know what the Rules Committee will eventually recommend to the full board and I would certainly welcome discussing any wording changes that might be necessary. This is not a 'simple' resolution and I certainly feel all the Supervisors should have a chance to hear about it, ask questions, and then return to their home communities for discussion, before it comes up for a final vote at another Board Meeting.

I would like to address the full Board at a meeting and make a brief presentation and answer their questions. There may be other members of the public who want to make their feelings known on this. As I said in my earlier letter, I believe this resolution is the first of its type in the State and Nation – I hope the Supervisor's of Wayne County will consider it carefully before they vote.

Regarding my background, you can find an 'expanded' resume at http://www.AKidsRight.Org/resume_jm.htm This resolution is about the Civil Right to know you have a child, that you are a parent. Some people were concerned about the cost of potential testing, perhaps we might better ask what is the cost to society when we fail to recognize and protect basic rights? Recent historical examples are equal treatment for women and ending segregation against blacks. When we help family, we help our children and make our community better – but it all starts with knowing you have a child.

Best regards!

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Attach: Draft Resolution Letter

CC: Mr. James Plant
CC: Mr. Steve LeRoy
CC: Mr. James Fabino