

34 Franklin St.
Lyons, NY 14489
Jan 9th, 2008

Assemblyman Robert Oaks
10 Leach Road
Lyons, NY 14489

Dear Assemblyman Oaks,

I got your letter from Dec 2nd and want to thank you for your thoughtful response to a message I sent you from the Wayne County Jail. This letter is about two topics: problems caused by my license suspension and planned public action to help convince you "*Parental Notification of Births*" will be a good Bill.

PARENTAL NOTIFICATION OF CHILD BIRTH – This has been a pending issue with you for several years and I understand the political reluctance you've expressed to support introducing such a measure.

I'd thought the idea both biological parents must be notified when a birth occurs was fundamental to parental involvement and support of a child.

With technological advances this could effect both mothers and fathers; although right now most of the impact is on men who don't know they're fathers. I was surprised to see the lack of support on what appears to be an issue of basic equality and justice regarding family rights.

This has become the basis for a plan to have some quiet public action by parents at your local offices in Lyons. Hopefully this will capture some public attention, cause some discussion of the topic, and make it easier for you to support introducing a draft bill.

http://www.AKidsRight.Org/parental_notification

Please understand participants will be peaceful and we are not trying to single you out as a 'bad example' or someone who doesn't care about parents and families. I appreciate your responsiveness and the courtesy of your staff. This is purely part of our political process and petitioning government for reform.

SUSPENSION - Right now I'm stuck in Lyons with my livelihood at risk because I can't drive to my work in Baldwinsville. I spoke to DMV regarding a 'restricted license' so I could get to work. They told me I didn't qualify because I was a 'threat on the highway!' This surprised and I told them I have an excellent driving record and my last moving violation was a minor speeding ticket back in 1993. They checked and told me I didn't qualify because I had a conviction for Driving without a License from 2005 (which was the problem I was trying to solve). I asked if there was an appeal process or other review. They told me, "No." That was the end of it.

I do not know if your staff can make an inquiry on my behalf and hopefully find there is some discretion. Many parents are affected by this and have nowhere to turn. *I regret reading in your past letter that you felt 'suspensions' are justified as an 'effective' means of collecting money.*

Honestly, I can't blame you for your feelings about both these matters since you haven't experienced it first-hand. I'm an educated person and considered myself 'politically aware' – but I never would have believed all this could happen to someone – until it occurred to me! The same is true of many parents who don't understand why it happened to them – how they could lose contact with their children so easily. *It's funny, many years ago, a lot of genuinely good people down South thought segregation was an 'effective' means of insuring social harmony!*

I encourage people in our group that anger & violence are not ways to change people's hearts. That the methods of Gandhi and Martin Luther King, voluntary self-sacrifice and respect for all – can also be effective today.

<http://www.AKidsRight.Org/civil.htm>

Best regards!

CC: oaksr@assembly.state.ny.us

John Murtari
jmurtari@AKidsRight.Org
office: 315-635-1968,x-211
cell: 315-430-2702