

June 16, 2017

Dear Senator Schumer,

I hope the attached letters from parents helps call your attention to a need for our nation to recognize & protect Family Rights. My story is included. We've tried to keep them to only one page. We've included pictures to help put a 'face' on parents & children unjustly separated.

You'll also find a one page 'Declaration of Family Rights' that defines our goals. It's hard to believe a crook stealing a 6-pack of beer has more due process protections than a parent and child facing separation/estrangement for life? A patchwork of state/federal laws all with the goal of protecting children has grown beyond belief in the last 50 years.

We mean well, but we don't do well. Our society improves when fundamental human rights are recognized and protected first – and very few items are more fundamental than Family.

We'd ask you to do two things:

- Let us know how you feel about supporting Federal Legislation to support it's "Right to know you're a parent."

[That when a child is born, both biological parents have a **right** to know.](#)

- As time permits meet with a small group of our parents. The goal is NOT to put you on the spot, but to only let you hear their experiences and pain. We have a draft agenda & guidelines at our website:

http://www.AKidsRight.org/actiond_syr/agenda.htm

Best regards!

John Murtari
34 Franklin Street
Lyons, NY 14489

315-430-2702
jmurtari@AKidsRight.Org

Dear Senator:

June 16, 2017

Being a parent was everything I had dreamed of. I never would've believed I was considered so "expendable" in my son's life. Before the divorce, we were both working part time, both equal parents -- but on the very first pretrial motion, I was expendable! Even though I stayed in the house, in a nice neighborhood, and my spouse moved into an apartment

I've been so thankful that Domenic and I have kept a strong relationship in spite of it all. I struggled at a "child support" level set at over twice my actual income and officials who simply refused to hear a "modification" after my son was relocated. It cost me almost a \$1000 to travel out west to see him for a weekend -- none of that counted. I lost my license, couldn't drive!

We were lucky! My former spouse finally agreed to a settlement when Dom was a senior in high school. We got rid of all the court support orders and arrears that had reached over \$125,000!!! I could work & drive again and really help him with college and other expenses.

Changing the system – I'm a former USAF Pilot, do charitable work, and am trying to start a grass-roots NonViolent Action movement based on faith & peaceful action as used by Gandhi & Martin Luther King. Started a web site, www.AKidsRight.Org, to help Moms & Dads work to have our nation recognize and protect Family Rights. "Declaration of Family Rights" on next page.

John Murtari, 34 Franklin St., Lyons, NY 14489 – jmurtari@AKidsRight.Org



Declaration of Family Rights

*That when a child is born, both biological parents have a **right** to know. A child has a **right** to both parents in their lives. Fit parents decide what is in the 'best interests' of their children. Good, average, & poor parents are Fit & Equal parents.*

*That you and your spouse have a **right** to be presumed Fit & Equal parents (equal in terms of both physical and legal custody).*

If anyone (a spouse, relative, social services) wishes to challenge these rights, you have:

- 1) The right to counsel.
- 2) The right to be presumed a fit parent, innocent, and deserving of an equal relationship with your kids.
- 3) The right to protection of a criminal jury. The "state" needs to prove you were a demonstrated serious and intentional threat to your child's safety and that you acted with mal-intent towards your children.

Dear Senator:

June 14, 2017

I have had prison hanging over my head for years and have been incarcerated once simply because I do not earn enough to pay an inflated court order for child support , and I refuse to give up seeing my children. I have tried and tried to get my support order adjusted to reasonable numbers instead of a number from a 2006 mortgage application establishing my income and my children's mother income set at \$0. I can no longer afford a lawyer after spending most of my savings (about \$10,000) on a lawyer just to get to see my children then having the state seize all the rest of my savings. I am routinely beaten down in court because I have neither the expertise nor money to afford justice.

My children go to a private school that charges \$16,000 per student per year, have tablets, computers, and phones, and plenty of unopened lego sets. The only unmet need they have is access to their father. They complain to me that they want to see me more, talk to me on the phone, email me, and it kills me. I want my children to have their dad. I have consistently failed at reasoning with their mother. I've consistently failed in court. I would like to see local courts recognize the fundamental right a parent has to parent their children and treat men and women equally in courts of law.

Sincerely, Alexander J.
Haas



Dear Senator,

Father's Day 2017

Children of divorce in America are routinely deprived of their father. I address many of the shortcomings in our legal system in my poem below. Please read it and keep our kids in mind when considering legislation about custody issues.

Thank you!

Don Mathis

Don Mathis, 2919 N. Main Ave., San Antonio, TX 78212



Children That Belong to Other Men – by Don Mathis

There are too many men
raising up children
that belong to other men.

Adoption is one thing,
a court ruling is another.
It takes a child away
from his birth father.

Sometimes the daddy
of the mommy
will have the little baby
more often than the daddy.

Wednesdays and weekends
are not enough to see him,
not enough to know him,
not enough to show him
the meaning of his kin.

Or the child's step-father
will have the step-daughter
more often than he ought to.

While the natural-born Dad
grows bitter and mad
that the little girl he had
is living with that man.

And then, there's the 'other.'
You know, Mom's new lover.
How I envy his time
with that child of mine.

I want all you guys
to tell your wives
and the women in your lives
what may be a surprise:

There are too many men
raising up children
that belong to other men.

Give the kids a break.
Don't hesitate.

Give some time to Daddy
before it's too late.

A child without a father
is like an otter without water.

To reach their full potential
and self-actualize,
kids need their daddy
and not some nearby guys.

The growth that comes
between a father and a son
is a two-way street;
It makes a life complete.

No one can love a daughter
like a birth father.
It can do no harm
to promote that bond.

There are too many men
raising up children
that belong to other men.

As a general rule
kids are at school
more often than
they're in Dad's hands.

Television by the hour
have the children in its power.
Or a drug is the drug of choice
rather than a father's voice.

The streets will soon become
full of teen-aged boys with guns.
And teen-aged girls with babies
will wonder who are their kid's daddies.

It takes more than
courage to raise good men.

How's a girl supposed to know
if a boy is good enough

to be a father to her child
unless she had one while
she was growing up.

A good dad has values
that a boy can choose.
A bad role model
is difficult to follow.
A boy may holler,
"I don't want to be like you!"

Either way,
they can have their say.
But what kind of influence
lies in father-absence?

When father-figures and nearby guys
are all they've known all their lives,
is the consistency constantly there?
Do the kids know who really cares?

A Daddy does!
Not a seed supplier.
A Daddy does!
Not a pay provider.

There are too many men
raising up children
that belong to other men.

A boy may see his teacher,
a scout leader, or a preacher,
more often than he can see
his father's family.

This is not right!
This is unjust!
Maybe okay for some
but not the rest of us.

I want all boyfriends
to tell all girlfriends,
and all second husbands
to tell all women:

There are too many men
raising up children
that belong to other men.

Some women cause such alienation
that America is becoming
a father-less nation.

These women will deny
that there are fathers that cry
for their children and they, for him.

These women may wish
they need a man like a fish
needs a bicycle.

They don't realize
the men they criticize
to their children, are essential.

They see nothing bad
for a child without a dad.
If Mom's boyfriend at the time
is child-friendly, well, that's fine.

But they have yet to discover
what the future will uncover:

There are too many men
raising up children
that belong to other men.