

John,

Aug 9, 2007

Here is a summary of the of the exchange that took place when I met with the representatives from our elected officials offices at the rally on Tuesday, July 31st 2007. Sorry I did not get it to you sooner but I was dealing with a migraine for several days and then had 3 yr. old grandson over the weekend. I apologize if I held up your newsletter.

I Went into the Hanley Federal Building at approx. 12:30 P.M. to deliver letters to Senators Clinton and Schumer and Congressman Walsh's offices from John Murtari and myself. The object was not only to hand deliver the letters, but to also try and get a few minutes of time from an assistant/ representative from each office to sit down with me and discuss our goal of Congressional Civil Rights Action. I was very nervous having never done anything like this before, despite being a very outgoing, outspoken woman. I had not anticipated being the group's spokesperson. John had given me contact names of people to ask for in Rep. Walsh's and Senator Clinton's offices. Having names alleviated some of my anxiety.

I went first to Senator Schumer's office which is located on the 8th floor, there were three people engaged in conversation within the common area. Two of the three people present quickly went to offices as I gave my name, stated that I was affiliated with the group AKidsRight and gave a brief synopsis as to why I was there. I was very nervous on this initial request. I was hot from being outside in the sun on the concrete, my mouth was dry and I had not anticipated speaking at length for our cause. I remember feeling as though I might pass out. The young man I spoke with was polite and aware of our goals but seemed to be rushing me. I neglected to get his name. I left the letters which he assured me would be forwarded to Senator Schumer. The entire conversation, lasted 2-3 minutes. We never sat down, no notes were taken.

After leaving Senator Schumer's office, I took a deep breath and headed for Congressman Walsh's office which is on the 13th floor. Our goals are worthy and I was determined to have them

heard. Here there were numerous people milling about. I introduced myself, my affiliation with the group, stated that Mr. Murtari was outside, and gave my reason for being there (deliver letters and speak with a representative about our goals). The contact person I requested to speak with was unavailable/ not in the office, so I asked if there was someone else I could speak to. Eric Schenck (Staff Assistant), who had directly approached me said he was willing to listen to what I had to say. I then asked if there was somewhere we could sit down since I would need few minutes. He obliged, even taking notes on our conversation about our goal for Congressional Action for a Parents Rights Act and the reasons why it is necessary. Indeed, as a young man who came from a family of divorce he seemed to recognize the civil rights issue. I explained to him that achieving our goal would someday protect his rights as a parent. He assured me that Congressman Walsh would receive the letters and a report on my visit.

Then on to Senator Clinton's office on the 14th floor, to deliver letters and attempt to get a few moments with Cathy Calhoun to convince her that our goal is an important valid issue and why a meeting with Senator Clinton would benefit all. The outer office was small and very hot. Approximately 7 people were seated at or around the one desk. I introduced myself, explained my purpose, mentioned that Mr. Murtari was with me outside and asked to speak with Cathy Calhoun. I was told she was no longer working in the Syracuse office. I asked to speak with her replacement Jay Biba. He emerged from his office saying he had a meeting but would certainly take the letters. I was politely persistent asking him what time was his meeting. It was for 1pm which left him with about 13 minutes. I assured him I would take no more than 10 minutes of his time. He was familiar with the organization and our goal. I asked why we had been unable thus far to arrange a meeting between Senator Clinton and small group of parents. I explained the purpose of the proposed meeting as well as the content. He did try to brush it off as a State issue, however, I reiterated that since we regard it as a civil liberty, it was indeed a Federal issue and should be protected by our Constitution as are other civil liberties. I acknowledged that Senator Clinton is very busy, that she has a full agenda but we have been

patiently waiting and we do not expect change to happen overnight. We are only requesting a meeting and we are not demanding it be tomorrow, next week or even next month. Just give us a date, we are willing to wait. He said Senator Clinton would get a report of our discussion and the letters. His only real response, which seems to make sense was, "Keep writing letters, the more letters the Senator gets, the more likely you'll get a meeting". I thanked him taking no more than the time allotted.

The rally was for me a positive experience. People saw our signs, became aware of our organization and a few became aware of our goal. If they did not ask what our purpose was, some simply never knew. That's why news and/media coverage is so important. I delivered our letters and got a few minutes (10 min. ea. @ Clinton's & Walsh' offices) to make a plea for our goal, so I feel that something was accomplished. Since Mr. Murtari and myself were the only active participants, our goal did not enlist the news or media coverage to reach the masses. I wish we had been able to get more local people to participate in the rally. There is power in numbers, and while this is not really about power; we are trying to achieve Federal Legislation. Elected officials tend to be dictated to by the numbers. Though I am a rebel by nature, I have never been involved in reform in such a personal way. Our goal of Federal Legislation for a Family Rights Act is such an important one I felt the need to act, not just for myself, but for my children, my grandchildren, and all the children yet to be.