

Written testimony only

March 13, 2022

I am a proponent of Senate Bill 276.

Chairperson Concannon and Committee Members:

I have been blind for approximately 50 years. Despite my blindness, I was the caregiver for my mother who eventually passed away from Alzheimer's disease. I have been able to do many things that a sighted person can do, and I do not let blindness hold me back.

I am not a blind parent, but my sighted husband and I know blind people that can benefit from the passage of SB 276. This important proposed legislation addresses a long-standing problem with blind parents losing the opportunity to raise their children in peace only because of their blindness. Without this package of guaranteed legal rights, blind parents will continue to face unwarranted obstacles and will continue to be denied the opportunity to raise and care for children in various situations such as adoptions, foster care placement, guardianship, and court cases involving child custody and visitation.

Sincerely,

Jo Ann "Jody" Mulik

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House district 21