

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: March 9, 2021 8:00 AM

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COMMENTS FOR: HB 892

Karrie Wilson, Justice for the Wilson children

Karrie Wilson

Pflugerville, TX

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Justice 4 Wilson Family

- kidnap By Cps!
- physically abused and neglected in foster care!
- teen runaway!
- statutory rape!
- harboring a runaway!
- corruption!
- lies!
- extortion!
- perjury!
- criminal barratry!
- tampering with evidence!
- False allegations!
- Broken Civil rules and procedures!
- Broken Human rights!
- Broken amendments!
- Guilty before innocent!
- No Justice within civil court!
- criminal actions by the State and the Department of family and Justice

Save Elanah, Elijah, Elandith, and Ellah Wilson
From Travis County CPS Corruption!

D-1-FM-20-001841

June 1, 2020

This letter is in regard to the corruption of Child Protective Services (CPS) in Travis County, Texas.

On March 16, 2020, three-year-old Ellah Henrietta Wilson, five-year-old Elandith Cooper Wilson, and fourteen-year-old Elijah Richard Wilson were taken from our home by CPS. This gross misconduct was instigated due to the actions of fifteen-year-old Elanah Lynn Wilson on March 14, 2020.

At the moment, over 42 people have been involved, at my front my door in Pflugerville, Texas, in the parking lot of the Department of Family Protective Services on Summit Drive, along with online meetings with seven lawyers and multiple foster families. My family has been torn apart by two Travis County judges, one Grimes County Sheriff, two Anderson County CPS caseworkers, three sheriffs from Travis County Sheriff's Department, six sheriffs or officers from the Department of Family Protective Services, and over ten CPS caseworkers.

Due to my 15-year-old daughter, and Elanah Lynn Wilson, running away from home on March 1, 2020, my other three children

have been kidnapped by the state. We were given a 32-page affidavit written by four or five different people all combined into one document. For the record, the majority of the document was not factual or true in its accounts. There were allegations of drugs, gang affiliation, family violence, and unthinkable actions which are not and many that have never been part of our family and the upbringing of my children.

The state has held three court room hearings over Zoom, all of which extended the protective orders to maintain custody of my children with no evidence or any factual allegations or statements on which the extension of temporary order was granted. My court appointed attorney issued a withdrawal the day after she informed me that my husband and I had both passed the drug test, that we offered to take, and two days after that, she was informed I was never properly served. The third hearing was for a three-hour 262 hearing to see the evidence against my husband and me. Again, I was never properly served, Karrie Michelle Wilson, the mother of the four children whom the department kidnapped. I am not a party to this lawsuit. I Let me say nobody, not one single person has done their job to prove guilt or innocence or protect my children. It

Dennis Borel

Coalition of Texans with Disabilities

Austin, TX

FOR. The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities heard numerous anecdotal stories from family members about lack of access to loved ones in facilities. We would support adding private ICFs (Intermediate Care Facilities).

Fred Aus

Self / consultant

Austin, TX

I am in favor of HB 892 and want to thank Chairman Frank for authoring it and for championing this cause throughout the pandemic. The isolation created by necessary public health measures has exacerbated physical and mental health issues for residents of long-term care facilities. Ensuring the rights of residents to have essential caregivers is important in providing quality care to LTC residents. I urge all committee members to support passage of HB 892.

Melissa Sanchez

Alzheimer's Association

Houston, TX

Chairman Frank and Members of the Committee:

Nearly half of all residents in long term care facilities are comprised of seniors with Alzheimer's or related dementia. The COVID-19 pandemic has had profound implications on our senior community in long-term care facilities; however, among some of our most vulnerable seniors are those residents living with Alzheimer's. Researchers at Case Western recently found the risk of contracting COVID-19 was twice as high for people with dementia than for those without it. This is in large part due to the many underlying chronic conditions that put individuals with Alzheimer's at a higher risk for COVID-19. In fact, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is reporting deaths well above average for Alzheimer's and dementia. The spread of COVID-19 coupled with the susceptibility of long-term care residents with dementia requires caution in visitation policies to ensure the safety of residents, staff, and visitors. The essential caregiver designation, which provides that family caregivers can enter a long-term care facility to provide direct care and assistance with activities of daily living needs careful consideration. That professional caregivers should be relying on family members to provide assistance with direct care in long-term care communities can be a slippery slope. People with dementia in long-term care (and their families) deserve to receive consistent, high quality care by properly trained staff employed by the facility. Additionally, family caregivers, while very well intentioned, lack the infection control training and reporting requirements of employed staff and are not subject to the same testing requirements as staff. We understand that this has been a very difficult time for everyone,

especially caregivers and other family who been unable to see their loved ones in person. The adverse effects social isolation has on residents in long-term care settings is very real and concerning. With high documented rates of asymptomatic COVID-19 in nursing homes and similarly high asymptomatic rates expected in other long-term care communities, a symptom-based screening strategy is insufficient. The Alzheimer's Association believes visitors (during a pandemic or public health crisis as contagious as COVID-19) are appropriate only when the long-term care community has the capability to employ rapid testing for all staff, visitors, and residents, and has adequate and consistent access to personal protective equipment for all staff. Rapid point-of-care testing for all visitors is the safest way to allow family and friends to socialize with and support their loved ones. As the combination of vaccinations and social distancing measures begin to reduce community spread, facilitating and increasing testing in long-term care communities will further enable facilities to mitigate future infection control and be more open to visitors.

Thank You.

Lauren Gerken

Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

Austin, TX

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 892. My name is Lauren Gerken, and I am a Public Policy Analyst for the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities (TCDD).

Established by state and federal law, TCDD is governed by 27 Governor-appointed board members, 60 percent of whom are individuals with developmental disabilities (DD) or family members of individuals with disabilities. The Council's purpose in law is to encourage policy change so that people with disabilities have opportunities to be fully included in their communities and exercise control over their own lives.

A TCDD Council Member, Paul Cardarella, has a daughter living in a Texas State Supported Living Center. Due to COVID-19, that facility imposed visitation restrictions that exacerbated the isolation some people with disabilities already experience when living in a facility. To give the Committee a better understanding of the restrictions' impacts on Texans with disabilities and their families, I offer you the following remarks from Mr. Cardarella, which were previously provided to the Committee in regard to its interim charges:

We are still restricted from visitation. The state made arrangements for FaceTime calls every other day, and that has certainly eased the pain of not being able to physically see our loved ones. However, the length of time has now surpassed what is mentally acceptable in my opinion. Our daughter is non-verbal, so she can't express herself in words. For a good while we were encouraged because she seemed happy whenever we visited with her, but in the last three weeks she does not seem happy and has cried more than once when we have to say goodbye. That is her telling us this has gone on long enough.

Everyday there are people from outside the campus coming in bringing supplies, food, etc., for the residents. They are screened, of course, but so could be parents and loved ones. The caregivers would be much more careful to not come if there was a problem, and they would be screened when they got there, as well. With the 5-minute testing procedure we could be assured there was not a problem. It just seems to us that our issue may

have been overlooked because perhaps there are other issues. It is time to put this issue on the front burner because the State, which appropriately shut the campuses down at the appropriate time has now become guilty of overreach, no matter the reason. The local SSLCs have already developed a plan that allows for safe visitation, but the decision to implement is out of their hands. In my opinion, further delay in allowing the disabled community to have access to their loved ones has become inhumane and needs to be corrected now.

Over the last year, we have all learned the toll not seeing our loved ones takes, but for some people in long-term care facilities, there is nothing new about this normal. Thank you again for your time. Please do not hesitate to contact TCDD with any questions.

Sherrie Bradley, BSN,RN ALF
LSM College Hill Assisted Living
Clifton, TX

As the BSN,RN, Manager/Director of an assisted living, I have serious concerns with not being able to stop EC visitation for any reason and not being able to object to the designated person. I am in my community daily and I think we know better who may not need to be an EC for someone for a multitude of reasons. After the year we have just come through, I think we have all had many situations where we have had to temporarily halt visitations. Prime examples being any kind of outbreak like influenza, COVID-19 just to name a couple of instances that can devastate residents and staff in long term care. We have also have found that people will not be truthful in their reporting on questionnaires which has and can present a huge risk to others. We have to have the tools, the rights, to halt visitations that are apt to be more harmful than good to a resident and thus present risks to the whole community. To strip long term care facilities of their ability to act and mitigate risks is asking for disaster. This is not in the best interest of the community as a whole. Sincerely, Sherrie Bradley BSN/RN, Manager/Director CHALF
