



Dear Representative,

We are Darlene and Curtis Bell and we support children and families in your district through Foster, Kinship and Adoptive Parenting, we are QPI Champions, Darlene is employed by the Youth Law Center Supporting Foster Parents. We have been Foster Parents for over 35 years, we have Adopted 5 children from Foster care. We've been mentoring youth for decades through various partnerships, including the upcoming launch of Twin Cities Cares (which Darlene is the Executive Director). Twin Cities Cares is an affiliate of Cares National Mentoring Movement. One of the goals of this TCCMM is to provide mentors to children in out of home placement and mentors for Foster Parents.

We believe your support is important to advance a key priority area for our children who experience out of home placement. Consistent excellent parenting and meaningful relationships are the most important services we can provide to children and youth in foster care, ultimately promoting timely reunification and reducing reentry. Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) is aimed at a fundamental transformation of the child welfare system so that every child receives loving, excellent parenting every day, and that every child has the opportunity to thrive into adulthood.

This year, a bill appropriating general funds to implement Quality Parenting Initiative principles and practices and support children and families experiencing foster care placements. I have firsthand experience of how QPI breaks down barriers and creates lasting change for youth and families. ***Share an anecdotal story that demonstrates the power of supporting parent collaboration on the wellbeing of children // the harm that happens when coparenting is not encouraged between parents. OR share a story that demonstrates the power of youth and parents as engaged partners for decision-making.***

Please consider cosponsoring HF1672 - APPROPRIATION; QUALITY PARENTING INITIATIVE.

We appreciate your leadership on behalf of priorities for children and families in our community. If you have questions, please feel free to contact us. We are glad to be a local resource for you.

Sincerely,
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis Bell

Darlene and Curtis Bell

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