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The Honorable:

Rep. Jim Jackson
Rep. Tryon D. Lewis
Rep. Dwayne Bohac
Rep. Joaquin Castro
Rep. Sarah Davis
Rep. Will Hartnett
Rep. Jerry Madden
Rep. Richard Pena
Raymond
Rep. Connie Scott
Rep. Senfronia Thompson
Rep. Beverly Woolley

Re: House Bill 2557

Dear Representatives:

I write in support of HB 2557 as an attorney, but more as a father who loves his children. About ninety percent of my practice is defending families mired in CPS investigations and/or litigation, so I see on a daily basis the devastation wrought when outside parties use the legal system to undermine parental authority.

Many of my clients are victims of false allegations laid against them by malicious individuals – hostile neighbors, ex-lovers, and family members with a grudge. Regardless of the culpability of the parent, the outcome is usually the same: families are fractured, children are made fearful, financial futures are ravaged.

Grandparent access suits are **not** about the abuse or neglect of a child. Nothing in HB 2557 precludes a grandparent with standing from being involved in a conservatorship action where parents have committed harmful acts or omissions against a child. This bill only restricts grandparents from using the court system - tying up scarce resources in the process - to litigate a disagreement with a parent as to **how** a parent chooses to raise the child.

Grandparent access suits turn centuries of law and common sense on its head. More, though, they serve to weaken the basic foundation of this and any great society: the family. Such meddling should not be condoned, and should **never** be supported or encouraged by the State. This bill serves to strengthen the family by stopping destructive meddling from outsiders. This bill should become law, for everyone's sake.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by a large 'B' and a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chris Branson
Attorney at Law