

Hello Esteemed members,

My Name is Arlene Rodriguez, I am a registered voter, constituent of Burlington WARD 3 and former GI, Franklin and Winooski resident. I moved here in 2015 for my kids to live in a safe state. To enjoy some kind of a peaceful life. As I left my abuser and toxic family members in New York City. I even helped the population, by having two beautiful babies Tinima and Cesar Jr in Vermont. Despite trying to live a peaceful life in Vermont. I was accused 2 yrs ago, over the phone as most things are now a days of several unproven accusations from well documented misleaders and a Domestic violence abuser in a whole other state. This was not something DCF thought to consider as procedurally most of their own sacred laws were grossly discarded. The preserved facts of all mentioned here are on the record. The accusations were not properly investigated at any point nor was the suspected abused child interviewed in a secure location by another DCF/ACS personnel in New York City.

This was further nurtured by not a single home visit conducted in two years and lack of input in the casplan from my self or my husband. Along with the continuous accosting of contracted mental health providers that solely only went by direction and information from their contractor DCF. Their sole purpose was to illicit guilt as they stated and is preserved. Along with this complete catastrophic impact on my little family lives. We also endured religious discrimination from DCF and from the Foster Placements. This behavior was repeated and furthered the discardment of our Families basic constitutional rights to freedom of religion. That is protected by state and federal regulations. That are applied to DCF in any state in America without exception. The seal of this discardment was when my daughter Reyna was retelling Mom and Dad of her baptism on a visit. When we voiced our serious concerns of this. We were then called gas lighters of our Muslim religion and Spanish culture in open court by DCF. To which we observed the highest level of impunity and discardment with not a single admonishment to DCF for this.

Given these new times in which we live DCF took full advantage of the COVID situation and blatantly discarded a hearing that was to reinstate visits after our visits were canceled due to the incident of which my Daughter Reyna told on her placement of her baptism. DCF retaliated on Reyna by moving her to another placement that continued taking her to church and not a Mosque as she stated on the record. The visits were canceled based on the words of a disabled and very uncomfortable woman whom had no experience with People Of Color nor did she review the guidelines of the visit that she was to supervise. That particular hearing discarded by DCF. Was an opportunity to write a letter to the court of which both Me and my husband did and could not give to the court. DCF SA Wendy Burroughs saw this as an opportunity to skew the words of the presiding Judge to misrepresent the ruling given that the only guilt that was to be taken was for the awry visit not the case in whole. She discarded the Judge's ruling and used it to escape liability for her clients DCF, and not the proper ruling set forth by the judge as stated repeatedly to her during the hearings in question.

When the bill came up for the Office of Child Advocacy. I knew it was something needed for this state greatly and immediately. If an office like that were to exist, Parents would have a real

resource to get real help from these and many other issues plaguing DCF historically and currently. What is not needed is any increase in wages. My case had 3 case workers and no visits were extended or made up at any time. Despite myself and husband repeatedly requesting to make them up and extend them. The presiding Judge also asked them to extend visits to which DCF repeatedly discarded this advisement. We only saw retaliation from DCF in the form of drastically reduced visits and discardment of our culture and faith. We always told DCF the truth. We didn't do the horrible abuse claimed on any child to which DCF stated as much on their own affidavit there was no abuse to any child at all.

In conclusion the Office of Child Advocacy needs to be active immediately. Not wage increases to case workers or supervisors. Whom historically and currently are void of real world concepts, of the impact that they make in the lives of others. All Vermont tax payers pay for the salaries of these workers and their supervisors whom, in earnest don't impress upon their subordinates the impact and the duty they have taken being a State Employee of that magnitude. Instead what is purchased with our tax dollars are wayward out of control kidnappers whom have no real responsibility and are readily believed. Our tax dollars do not purchase impunity for anyone. They need more training, proper management, real accountability not a raise for poor performance.

In resolute faith

Mrs. Arlene Rodriguez