

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Wednesday, June 1, 2011
2:20 p.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCILWOMAN MARIAN B. TASCO, CHAIR
COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR.
COUNCILMAN BILL GREEN
COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.
COUNCILMAN JAMES KENNEY
COUNCILWOMAN DONNA REED MILLER
COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN

BILLS 110304, 100755, 110346 and 110374

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COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: We're going to begin with the testimony, and before we vote anything, we'll have a quorum. We're waiting for one Councilperson.

So I'd like to call Council's Committee on Public Health and Human Relations to order and note that present are Councilwoman Donna Reed Miller, Councilman Goode and Councilwoman Tasco, and Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown will be here shortly.

Good afternoon. We will note for the record we'll have the Clerk please read the bills that will be heard. Bill No. 110346 regarding raccoons will be recessed until Tuesday, June 7th at 2:00 p.m. So if you're here for the raccoons, you have to come back.

Would the Clerk please read the other bills.

THE CLERK: Bill No. 110304, an ordinance amending Title 21 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled

1 6/1/11 - PUBLIC HEALTH - BILL 110304, ETC.

2 "Miscellaneous," by adding a new Chapter
3 requiring the Department of Human
4 Services to report on its compliance with
5 a policy that requires that a summary of
6 children's rights to be free from abuse
7 be communicated to all children who are
8 the subject of an investigation into a
9 credible report of child abuse or who are
10 being placed in another home, foster
11 home, group home, or other facility,
12 under certain terms and conditions.

13 Bill No. 110755, an ordinance
14 amending Title 21 of The Philadelphia
15 Code, entitled "Miscellaneous," by
16 creating a new Chapter 21-1800, entitled
17 "Foster Care," to provide for standards
18 and procedures for approving foster
19 parents and the placement of children in
20 foster care, all under certain terms and
21 conditions.

22 Bill No. 110374, an ordinance
23 amending Chapter 9-600 of The
24 Philadelphia Code, entitled "Service and
25 Other Businesses," to require tobacco

1 6/1/11 - PUBLIC HEALTH - BILL 110304, ETC.

2 retailers to obtain permits for the
3 retail sale of tobacco products and
4 certain other products containing
5 nicotine, under certain terms and
6 conditions.

7 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you
8 very much. We're going to hold Bill No.
9 110346 and we're going to hear Bill No.
10 110374, the retail tobacco permit
11 ordinance.

12 Good afternoon.

13 COMMISSIONER SCHWARZ: Good
14 afternoon, Councilwoman Tasco, members of
15 the Committee on Public Health and Human
16 Services. I am Donald Schwarz, Health
17 Commissioner for the City. Thank you for
18 the opportunity to present testimony on
19 Bill 110374, which requires retailers to
20 obtain permits to sell tobacco products
21 and certain other products containing
22 nicotine.

23 At the outset, let me state the
24 obvious. Tobacco products are addictive,
25 dangerous and deadly. As you know, the

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2 Department of Public Health is charged
3 with protecting the health of
4 Philadelphia residents. Because
5 tobacco-related illnesses are the leading
6 cause of premature death in Philadelphia,
7 the Department has a keen interest in
8 protecting residents from the harms of
9 tobacco use and exposure.

10 The statistics are clear and
11 compelling. Of the ten largest cities in
12 the country, Philadelphia has the highest
13 rate of smoking among adults. In 2010,
14 25.2 percent of all Philadelphia adults
15 were smokers, and nearly one-third of all
16 low-income adults were smokers. Among
17 large cities, Philadelphia has one of the
18 highest rates of youth smoking. In 2009,
19 11 percent of 9th to 12th graders smoked
20 once in the past 30 days, and nearly
21 one-third of all white youth smoked once
22 in the past 30 days. Moreover, half of
23 all 9th to 12th graders had smoked at
24 least once in their lifetimes.

25 Philadelphia has more cigarette

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2 retailers per capita than any other large
3 city except for Washington, DC. There is
4 one tobacco retailer for every 37 youth
5 in Philadelphia.

6 Tobacco use leads to over \$800
7 million in productivity losses and nearly
8 2,500 deaths per year in Philadelphia,
9 and tens of thousands suffer from
10 tobacco-related debilitating diseases,
11 like emphysema, lung cancer and stroke.
12 This suffering is unnecessary and
13 preventable.

14 One part of a public health
15 strategy to prevent needless deaths
16 begins with a permitting system to track
17 tobacco retailers more effectively and
18 efficiently in the City. Currently, a
19 licensing system does exist at the state
20 level, but there are two important
21 deficiencies with the system. First, it
22 applies only to cigarette retailers and
23 not to those businesses that sell other
24 tobacco products such as cigars, bidis,
25 pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, dipping

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2 tobacco, snuff, dissolvable tobacco
3 products and snus, the non-chew, non-spit
4 tobacco that is becoming more popular;
5 and, two, data received from the state
6 are often incomplete and inaccurate.

7 The Pennsylvania Department of
8 Revenue licenses cigarette retailers
9 throughout the Commonwealth primarily for
10 purposes of verifying that retailers are
11 selling taxed cigarettes. In
12 Pennsylvania, an excise tax applies only
13 to cigarettes and not to other tobacco
14 products. From a prevention viewpoint,
15 this is an important function, since an
16 excise tax raises the price of cigarettes
17 and makes it less likely for children to
18 smoke. However, while the Pennsylvania
19 Department of Revenue is first and
20 foremost concerned with collecting taxes,
21 our Department of Public Health is
22 focused on curbing tobacco use and
23 effectively enforcing tobacco control
24 laws. Bill 110374 will enable the
25 Department to track all tobacco

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2 retailers, not just those that sell
3 cigarettes. Given Philadelphia's own tax
4 on tobacco and tobacco-related products,
5 permitting vendors would also help the
6 City's efforts in tax collection.

7 Another limitation of the state
8 licensing system is that its data on
9 cigarette retailers are often incomplete
10 and inaccurate, thus complicating the
11 City's efforts in determining where
12 cigarettes are being sold to the public.

13 Even with good information, keeping track
14 of the approximately 4,400 cigarette
15 retailers would be challenging. Without
16 good data, it becomes onerous. The data
17 we receive from the state contain only --
18 many common problems. First, business
19 names are often incorrect; two, addresses
20 are incomplete, misspelled and
21 mislabeled; three, addresses sometimes do
22 not correspond to places of business;
23 and, four, license numbers for one
24 business may change from year to year.

25 The Department of Public Health must have

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2 complete and accurate retailer
3 information in order to enforce tobacco
4 control laws, engage in informed planning
5 and implement targeted programs.

6 As proposed in the bill, the
7 Department of Public Health will
8 administer an accurate, efficient tobacco
9 retailer permitting process. We have
10 developed a memorandum of understanding
11 with the Department of Licenses and
12 Inspection so that we can issue permits.
13 Within the Department of Public Health,
14 the Division of Environmental Health
15 Services will review applications and
16 issue permits for an annual fee of \$50.
17 Issuance will require a valid
18 Philadelphia business privilege license
19 and, for cigarette retailers, a valid
20 Pennsylvania cigarette retailer license.
21 Information about the retailer, including
22 the permit number, will be entered into a
23 tobacco retailer database for purposes of
24 verification, assurance of past
25 compliance and prospective tracking.

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2 Environmental health sanitarians will
3 enforce the law through random
4 inspections and through identification of
5 retailers that have a state license but
6 not a local permit. Tobacco retailers
7 will be informed of the new permitting
8 requirement through outreach in
9 partnership with the Department of
10 Commerce and through notification when
11 they apply for or renew a business
12 privilege license.

13 The Department of Public Health
14 wholeheartedly supports Bill 110374.
15 Permitting will provide us accurate,
16 timely and complete information about
17 retailers in the City that sell addictive
18 and deadly tobacco products. In
19 addition, it will be another tool that
20 enables us to enforce important tobacco
21 control laws and inform tobacco control
22 planning and programs.

23 Thank you again for allowing me
24 to testify. I'm happy to answer any
25 questions you may have, and I note for

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2 you testimony that was submitted by the
3 American Cancer Society as well.

4 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you
5 very much.

6 Any questions?

7 (No response.)

8 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you
9 for your testimony.

10 COMMISSIONER SCHWARZ:
11 Pleasure. Thank you.

12 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Who might
13 not support this legislation?

14 COMMISSIONER SCHWARZ: I don't
15 know. The fee is modest and people are
16 already registered with the City through
17 the business privilege licensing process
18 and through the state. So the
19 Department's goal here is to educate
20 first, which we've been doing around
21 youth sales, and we've been very
22 successful. The biggest impediment we've
23 had is finding retailers since we've
24 relied on the state database. We've
25 worked with the state. They know their

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2 issues with their own database. So this
3 is an attempt to give us more complete
4 data, and we'll be able to work with
5 retailers better.

6 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you
7 very much. We appreciate your testimony.

8 COMMISSIONER SCHWARZ: Sure.

9 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Okay. Our
10 next bill will be Bill No. 100755, the
11 foster parents ordinance. Anne Marie
12 Ambrose and Ron Spangler.

13 (Witnesses approached witness
14 table.)

15 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Good
16 afternoon. How you doing?

17 COMMISSIONER AMBROSE: Good
18 afternoon.

19 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Good.
20 Would you state your name for the record
21 and begin your testimony.

22 COMMISSIONER AMBROSE: Sure.
23 Good afternoon, Councilwoman Tasco and
24 members of the Committee. My name is
25 Anne Marie Ambrose and I'm the

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2 Commissioner of the Department of Human
3 Services. DHS currently provides
4 services to 22,628 children. Of these,
5 4,343 are in foster care. In 2010 alone,
6 4,936 children were placed in foster
7 care. We are the largest county child
8 welfare agency in the Commonwealth.

9 I am here today to support the
10 goals contained in Councilman Jones'
11 ordinance, which provides for standards
12 and procedures for approving foster
13 parents and the placement of children in
14 foster care.

15 DHS's mission is to provide and
16 promote safety, well-being and permanency
17 for all children at risk of abuse,
18 neglect or delinquency. Where children
19 can be kept safe in their homes, our goal
20 is to keep them at home with their
21 families of origin. Unfortunately, this
22 cannot always be achieved and children
23 must go into foster care. Even where
24 children must be placed in foster care,
25 safety is our number one priority.

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2 Foster families and the
3 provider agencies that license them are
4 key partners with DHS and play a crucial
5 role in our work. These foster families
6 open their homes and hearts to children
7 who cannot remain in their own homes.
8 Bill 100755 codifies several extremely
9 important aspects of DHS's work, ensuring
10 that children who are placed in foster
11 care are placed in safe homes, with
12 families that understand their
13 multi-faceted role in their children's
14 lives.

15 The bill's requirement that DHS
16 review and consider any history of
17 involvement with DHS by a foster parent
18 is a critical aspect of DHS's work with
19 the provider agencies, which are the
20 entities that actually license foster
21 homes. DHS works with the provider
22 agencies to ensure that they have the
23 necessary information about a family's
24 past involvement with DHS so that a child
25 is not placed in a home where that

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2 history, in combination with other
3 relevant factors, demonstrates that a
4 family is unable to safely and
5 appropriately care for a foster child.
6 Even once a child is placed in a home,
7 DHS and its providers are regularly
8 assessing the safety of the home where
9 the children are placed.

10 Foster parents have the
11 challenging responsibility of treating
12 the children in their care as they would
13 their own children, while planning for
14 the child's potential reunification with
15 their birth family, as reunification is
16 our preferred permanency goal at the same
17 time and, at the same time, understanding
18 that there is a possibility that a child
19 may not be able to safely return home.
20 It is essential that our foster parents
21 accept a child's relationship with his or
22 her own parents and work with the
23 provider agency to facilitate appropriate
24 family and sibling visits. Maintaining
25 family connections is a cornerstone of

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2 our work, and much of our initiatives are
3 built around this concept, that children
4 must remain connected to their siblings
5 and parents and to work towards
6 reunification wherever possible.

7 This bill recognizes the
8 importance of these life connections to
9 family for the children in care and the
10 importance of foster families' support of
11 establishing and maintaining these
12 connections for the children in our care.

13 It is, of course, the children
14 and youth that we serve that are at the
15 heart of our system, and their voices and
16 experiences must be heard for our system
17 to truly be responsive. It is for this
18 reason that the bill's requirement that
19 DHS must consult with former and current
20 foster children as we develop policies
21 around placement of children is so
22 important. DHS currently has an older
23 youth advisory board through its
24 Achieving Independence Center that
25 performs these functions.

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2 We at DHS will continue to use
3 these innovative and collaborative
4 strategies to keep children safe.

5 Thank you.

6 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you
7 very much.

8 Mr. Spangler, are you
9 testifying?

10 MR. SPANGLER: Yes, ma'am.

11 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you.

12 MR. SPANGLER: Good afternoon.

13 I'd like to thank the members of the
14 Committee Council for this opportunity
15 today. My name is Ron Spangler. I'm a
16 Program Director for ResCare Workforce
17 Services. ResCare's name is derived from
18 two words, respecting care. These are
19 the core values that form the bedrock of
20 the company's philosophy. ResCare has
21 been a pioneer in developing training
22 programs with a strong emphasis on
23 self-sufficiency obtained through
24 employment and post secondary education.
25 The impact of these programs has resulted

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2 in successfully serving youth throughout
3 the country, many with multiple barriers
4 to employment.

5 Today, there are more adults
6 searching for their siblings than
7 searching for parents. One of the most
8 critical contributions that the child
9 welfare professionals can provide for
10 children who enter care is to preserve
11 their connections with their brothers and
12 sisters. Approximately 70 percent of
13 children in foster care in the United
14 States have another sibling in care.
15 Visiting between children and care is
16 essential to maintaining family
17 attachments as well as to reduce the
18 sense of abandonment.

19 When children come into foster
20 care, many times siblings will be
21 separated for various reasons. This
22 separation can be very hard for children
23 to deal with since they're already losing
24 the connection to everything that is
25 familiar. It is important for siblings

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2 to feel connected and remain in contact
3 with each other. Foster parents are the
4 key to helping the child maintain this
5 bond.

6 In families requiring
7 intervention because patients are unable
8 to meet the children's needs, the ties
9 between siblings may become even
10 stronger. Children learn to depend on
11 each other to cope with life experiences.
12 If intervention results in separation of
13 the siblings, they may experience
14 additional feelings of loss and grief.
15 When siblings cannot be placed together,
16 visits are essential in maintaining their
17 emotional attachments and connections.
18 Planning for the needs of individual
19 children should be carefully considered
20 with the background of their sibling
21 relationship.

22 Sibling relationships are
23 powerful and important not only in
24 childhood but over the course of a
25 lifetime. Siblings form a child's first

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2 peer group and children learn social
3 skills, particularly in managing conflict
4 from negotiating with brothers and
5 sisters. Sibling relationships can
6 provide a significant source of stability
7 throughout a child's lifetime and are
8 likely to be the longest relationships
9 that most people experience.

10 Efforts to support and preserve
11 sibling relationships when siblings are
12 placed separately in foster care are
13 critical. Frequent and meaningful
14 sibling visits can be achieved by
15 educating foster parents on the
16 importance of sibling relationships,
17 engaging foster parents in visitation
18 planning, and providing services
19 necessary to support roles and
20 facilitating sibling visitation.

21 To improve outcomes for youth
22 in foster care, a new vision and
23 proactive strategy is required,
24 recognizing that key stakeholders cannot
25 do this work in isolation of each other.

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2 With guidance and support from medical
3 agencies and visionary leadership, we can
4 help build greater futures.

5 Thank you.

6 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you
7 very much.

8 Ms. Ambrose, could you tell me
9 what triggered this legislation and what
10 is different -- what does this
11 legislation require that you may or may
12 not be currently performing now?

13 COMMISSIONER AMBROSE: This
14 legislation was actually triggered by
15 Councilman Jones visiting DHS and
16 spending many hours with my staff and
17 myself, learning more about the agency
18 and being very interested in what happens
19 to kids who are in foster care and being
20 very interested in making sure that
21 there's a very thorough process for
22 making sure that those families who are
23 selected to be foster parents are
24 thoroughly screened to make sure that
25 children are safe.

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2 I think some of this is for him
3 a personal issue, but taking great
4 interest in preserving sibling bonds,
5 something that DHS really tries to do.
6 Children are traumatized enough by being
7 removed from their homes and their
8 families and all the things that they're
9 familiar with, but to be separated from
10 their siblings is particularly
11 traumatizing, and we make our best
12 efforts to keep those sibling groups
13 together. That's one of the priorities
14 and philosophies of our system, but when
15 that's not possible, we have a
16 responsibility to make sure that those
17 relationships continue and that we
18 facilitate every means of visitation and
19 communication to ensure that.

20 Far too often I've heard from
21 former foster children who are still
22 trying to find their siblings that
23 they've been separated from for a long
24 time. Some of these things are in new
25 state law, and so in some ways, this is

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2 just a reinforcement of those things that
3 are really important as foundations of
4 the child welfare system.

5 I think, additionally, DHS
6 doesn't have the licensure power to
7 approve foster homes. That really rests
8 with the state and the providers, and
9 this is just making sure that DHS
10 emphasizes this is a priority in our
11 review process.

12 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Okay.

13 Thank you.

14 And, Mr. Spangler, how did you
15 get interested in this?

16 MR. SPANGLER: Working with
17 ResCare, we work with youth who are in
18 foster care. We manage a large number of
19 group homes throughout the country. Our
20 goal is -- my personal goal is, I'd like
21 to retire soon, and to do this, it's
22 really important that youth are able to
23 make the transition to adulthood
24 successfully, whether that includes going
25 on to post secondary

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2 education/employment, and in doing this,
3 we have found that the connection with
4 siblings is a very powerful tool. We
5 certainly look favorably towards the
6 bill.

7 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you
8 very much.

9 We have the sponsor of this
10 legislation here, and we'd like to offer
11 him the opportunity to have comments.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
13 Madam Chair, and I apologize for being
14 late to a bill that I authored, but we
15 have some other --

16 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: You're
17 competing with the School District.

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: We're
19 competing with a major issue of a number
20 of kids, some of whom are in your charge
21 as well, and we're struggling with those
22 deliberations and budget issues.

23 But I came here to say that the
24 origin of this was in a visit to one of
25 the advocacy organizations that come

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2 under your charge, and I had the blessing
3 of meeting with three young people that
4 have gone through that system. And I
5 want to say for the record and those who
6 may be within the sound of the voice,
7 that they were some of the most
8 courageous people I ever met in my life.
9 They had been through adversities of life
10 that dealt them some cards probably that
11 they did not deserve, definitely some
12 cards that they did not deserve, but made
13 the best out of situations, and in that
14 conversation, in that touching story that
15 they told about each of their lives,
16 their compassion for siblings, their
17 concern about where they were being
18 placed and sometimes the need to have
19 more input was some of the concerns.

20 And to the Commissioner's
21 credit, in subsequent meetings when you
22 took me on an intense tour of your
23 agency -- and when I say "intense," they
24 blocked out the better part of a day to
25 make sure that I understood their

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2 mission. These concerns became not only
3 concerns that were by the young people
4 but concerns by your staff, and what we
5 did was put our heads together and say
6 how do we help, how do we strengthen laws
7 to provide by input of young people in
8 questions of sibling placement.

9 I could only imagine as a young
10 person not having input where my little
11 brother or my little sister was placed
12 and not being able to express concerns
13 and have those concerns weighted in their
14 placement.

15 So we got our heads together
16 and we introduced this legislation to try
17 to address some of those things and try
18 to bring focus on the great job, the
19 great job -- I underscore it three
20 times -- the great job that most foster
21 parents do with young people, shaping
22 their lives, protecting them from threats
23 within and without the system. But to do
24 a better job, we might be able to tweak
25 the law a little bit and give them the

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2 tools, the Commissioner, the tools to
3 carry out her mission. And so that's the
4 genesis of this. And I want to work
5 closely with -- I really didn't in the
6 beginning want to work closely with -- it
7 wasn't my natural calling, but because of
8 your work and your staff's work and
9 bringing me information and educating me
10 on the issues, I'm making a commitment to
11 work with DHS on all of its concerns and
12 issues and challenges and successes too,
13 because it's one of the most difficult
14 jobs of any City department, and I
15 recognize that more than ever.

16 COMMISSIONER AMBROSE: And I
17 just want to say we appreciate your
18 partnership and your support, definitely.

19 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.

20 COUNCILWOMAN TASCIO: Thank you
21 very much.

22 Thank you, Councilman, for your
23 concern and getting involved, and we know
24 that you really care about young people,
25 and I'm sure they have an appreciation

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2 for what we're trying to do here today.

3 Thank you all very much. We're
4 going to call you back after the next
5 panel.

6 We'll hear the next bill, Bill
7 No. 110304, child abuse reporting
8 ordinance, former foster child Kenyada
9 Kitchen and Antonio McCaskill.

10 (Witnesses approached witness
11 table.)

12 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Good
13 afternoon, and would you state your name
14 for the record, please.

15 MR. KITCHEN: Good afternoon,
16 Chairwoman Tasco and members of the --
17 excuse me; bear with me.

18 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Take your
19 time.

20 MR. KITCHEN: And members of
21 the Public Health and Human Services
22 Committee. My name is Kenyada Kitchen
23 and I'm formerly -- I was a former
24 Philadelphia's foster care system. I
25 thank you for the opportunity to testify

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2 on Bill 110304.

3 I share this testimony with you
4 in hopes of making it better for someone
5 else, perhaps keeping another foster
6 child from being abused. Personally, I
7 was not physically or sexually abused,
8 but I was verbally abused. However, many
9 of my friends suffered from physical,
10 sexual and verbal abuse while in the
11 foster care system.

12 I come here today to ask you to
13 pass legislation that would allow
14 children to have a childish life. What I
15 mean by this, because we suffer abuse in
16 the system, it robs us from our
17 childhood. It steals from our dreams.

18 Think about it. If someone
19 verbally abused you, always calling you
20 stupid and saying you will never amount
21 to anything or talking about your mother
22 and how she didn't want you, how do you
23 respond to that? Do you move forward and
24 go out and play or do you build a wall
25 with anger, hurt, shame and

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2 embarrassment?

3 I currently live in a house
4 with youth who have aged out of foster
5 care. Both roommates were physically
6 abused and one was both physically and
7 sexually abused. She was beaten with a
8 broomstick if she even looked at her
9 foster care mother wrong. She was made
10 to feel worthless, as I was by the
11 constant verbal abuse. Who could we
12 call? Who could we tell? What rights
13 did we have?

14 When you're under the
15 protection of the foster care system,
16 they let you know that there is no
17 tolerance for violence, sexual abuse and
18 verbal abuse. When you're told these
19 things, you feel safe, but nine times out
20 of ten, based on what I've experienced
21 and heard from my friends, this is not
22 true.

23 Remember, we already feel
24 abandoned and rejected. This tolerance
25 of no abuse is usually broken. The

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2 people who are charged with taking care

3 of us do not follow the "no abuse" rule.

4 Again, I can recall being a teenager and

5 being verbally abused by staff members.

6 Abusers are not only foster care parents;

7 they also are staff members. I remember

8 them telling me that I would never amount

9 to anything and that I was going to be

10 nothing in life and that I was going to

11 die from AIDS because I was gay or

12 homosexual. Those words went towards

13 crippling my mind, thinking that these

14 things were true. Only after I entered

15 childhood did I start noticing how

16 powerful I could be and how much other

17 people's words could affect me deeply.

18 They can hurt and damper one's

19 self-esteem.

20 I am here before you today to

21 ask you to pass legislation that will

22 perhaps save a child's life. Think about

23 it. Your vote could impact the life or

24 death of a child, someone who already is

25 suffering emotionally because they feel

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2 they've been abandoned. They are
3 confused, hurt and possibly angry, now to
4 add to this physical or verbal abuse.
5 Suddenly if I could have known -- if I
6 would have known or had the opportunity
7 to report my abuse, perhaps I wouldn't
8 have suffered for as long as I did.

9 I know that there are no legal
10 remedies for verbal abuse, but if I had
11 known that I had a right to be free from
12 abuse, including verbal abuse, perhaps I
13 could have had a happier childhood.

14 Thank you for your time. I
15 hope that you will vote in favor of Bill
16 110304 today and when it comes before the
17 whole body. I am happy to answer any
18 questions.

19 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you.
20 We'll hear the other young man testify
21 and then we'll have questions.

22 Good afternoon.

23 MR. McCASKILL: Good afternoon,
24 Chairman Tasco and members of Council.
25 My name is Antonio McCaskill and I was

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2 formerly in foster care. I share this
3 testimony in hopes of making the foster
4 care system better for various youth and
5 a plethora of agencies in the United
6 States foster care system.

7 The foster care system is an
8 awkward and unhappy place to spend your
9 childhood. You experience stress,
10 loneliness, depression, but the most
11 devastating psychological effect of all
12 is the multiple accounts of abuse you
13 will experience or fear that you will
14 experience because others around you are
15 being abused.

16 Abuse in the foster care system
17 happens in many different ways and
18 usually occurs in plain sight of staff,
19 who may or may not participate directly
20 in the abuse. Usually foster care do not
21 have any knowledge of what abuse is or
22 who you can contact if you are being
23 neglected or abused within the foster
24 care system. When you do not have a
25 touch of knowledge about what abuse is

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2 and/or who you contact about it, you will
3 not only be taken advantage of, but the
4 abuse will go on until you leave the
5 foster care system.

6 My story of abuse in the foster
7 care system involves every type of abuse.
8 Fortunately, I haven't developed any type
9 of debilitating psychological
10 disabilities that I know of, and I have
11 the courage to tell my story to strangers
12 and individuals of authority in the child
13 welfare system and to you all at City
14 Hall today.

15 I was physically, mentally,
16 emotionally and verbally abused in a
17 group home in Hazleton, Pennsylvania
18 since the age of six years old. The
19 staff emotionally abused me through my
20 aspirations to reunite or at least
21 reconnect with my mother. They used this
22 as a mean-spirited opportunity to talk
23 down to me about my mother, saying she
24 disowned me because I was the worst and
25 that I should never have been born. They

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2 told me that my mother was a crack head,
3 alcoholic and then that she didn't want
4 me.

5 As anyone who is subject to
6 constant berating, I developed anger
7 against the people around me and I began
8 to believe that I was told about my own
9 mother's thoughts and feelings about me.
10 I began creating a life for myself that
11 matched the stories they told me. I
12 would get into trouble at the residential
13 home and at school by either not paying
14 attention to the teachers or I was
15 extremely confrontational with the kids
16 in school.

17 I became a black hole. I used
18 to be angry at the world. Anyone who
19 would try to talk to me or be genuine,
20 kind or loyal to me, I would have a
21 pre-conceived notion that they didn't
22 care about me and I wouldn't let them get
23 close. Because I didn't know how to act
24 or control my emotions, I didn't get to
25 experience outings or other

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2 extracurricular activities like most
3 other children.

4 As I got older, I started
5 having faint memories about my own
6 mother. My behavior started to
7 straighten up, and I started coping with
8 the absence of my mother. But at this
9 time, I was old enough to be restrained,
10 and that's where the physical abuse comes
11 in. All of this was a result of not
12 knowing what I experienced was abusive,
13 not knowing there was anyone to express
14 my feelings to and not having an outlet
15 to voice my anger, sorrow and get my
16 questions answered.

17 As I prepare this testimony, it
18 seems like it was only yesterday that I
19 was getting brutally abused at the hands
20 of the residential staff and counselors.
21 If Freedom from Abuse Rights had been
22 disclosed to me before I entered the
23 facility in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, I
24 believe that my childhood would have been
25 different, maybe better.

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2 This legislation has the
3 potential to make an important and
4 positive difference in the lives of
5 children as they enter foster care.

6 I recommend and ask you to pass
7 this very important legislation that
8 perhaps may keep another child out of
9 therapy, the hospital, jail or, God
10 forbid, the morgue. You may not
11 recognize it or have experienced how it
12 feels to be robbed of your childhood,
13 your innocence and your dignity. You may
14 not know what it feels like to think you
15 have no one -- and I repeat, no one -- to
16 protect you or, equally as important, to
17 empower you to protect yourself.

18 Today you have the power to
19 prevent another child from becoming a
20 statistic. So before you cast your vote
21 today, think about the innocent child who
22 once was me, who didn't understand what
23 abuse was and discovered much too late
24 that it wasn't right what people who were
25 supposed to care for me did to me.

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2 Before you cast your vote, realize that a
3 child's life lies in the balance and you
4 today have an opportunity to help.

5 Thank you for listening, and I
6 welcome any questions.

7 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you
8 very much for your testimony.

9 Councilman Jones.

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: Some of the
11 first encounters with some young people
12 that have similar experience -- I'm
13 choked up a little bit by hearing what
14 you've had to endure, and on behalf of
15 society, I offer my sincere apologies,
16 and a sincere effort that we try and move
17 forward and making sure that other young
18 people don't have to go through what
19 you've endured.

20 A couple of questions, and
21 either of you can answer this. Do you
22 have brothers or sisters? Do you, and
23 how many?

24 MR. McCASKILL: I have one
25 brother and three other sisters.

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2 MR. KITCHEN: I have three
3 sisters and three brothers.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: Are any of
5 them or all of them in the system?

6 MR. McCASKILL: No; just me.

7 MR. KITCHEN: Just me and my
8 sister.

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: And your
10 sister?

11 In your experience, were you
12 able to maintain contact with your
13 sister?

14 MR. KITCHEN: Not really, not
15 other than phone calls and letters.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: Were you
17 able to have input about the care of your
18 sister?

19 MR. KITCHEN: No.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: Were there
21 any problems similar to your experience
22 with your sister?

23 MR. KITCHEN: No.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: She didn't
25 have problems?

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2 MR. KITCHEN: She had problems,
3 but it wasn't like geared towards I had.
4 It was more behavior problems.

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: Were there
6 any issues expressed about where she was
7 staying and with whom or -- is she older
8 or younger?

9 MR. KITCHEN: She's older.

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: So let's
11 reverse that. Did you ever express any
12 concerns about where you were placed with
13 her?

14 MR. KITCHEN: Yes.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: Was she able
16 to input on those concerns about where
17 you were placed?

18 MR. KITCHEN: No.

19 COUNCILMAN JONES: So was she
20 upset or concerned about her inability to
21 impact her brother?

22 MR. KITCHEN: Yes.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: And how did
24 she deal with that frustration? What
25 courses of action could she take at the

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2 time?

3 MR. KITCHEN: Well, I think
4 that with her, it was just more anger,
5 and she would take all her frustration
6 and things out on other people, but there
7 was really nothing neither one of us
8 could do to kind of persuade them for
9 both of us to be with each other.

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: Similarly
11 with individuals I've had an opportunity
12 to talk to who have gone through the
13 system, that was a similar experience,
14 and those are the reasons I asked those
15 questions, that there was frustration
16 even to the point where some of them had
17 run away and had helped their siblings
18 run away.

19 One of the insights that I
20 gained from the Commissioner's office is,
21 you mentioned that you were in Hazleton,
22 and one of the goals of the Department is
23 to place more of the young people that
24 are in the system within Philadelphia,
25 which I think is a worthwhile goal,

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2 because it's nice to be in Hazleton and
3 whether it's Stony Brook Lane or wherever
4 it is, but if you're not near your
5 support system, your family, and when you
6 are able to make decisions for yourself
7 and have greater awareness, it's good to
8 be able to reconnect with your family
9 members in a way that doesn't take four
10 hours to do. To be able to on a weekend
11 have an interaction and maintain those
12 kinds of family connects that give both
13 you strength to endure and input from
14 siblings is an important part of
15 interaction of a family. It is one thing
16 to go through a thing by yourself; it's
17 another thing to have to go through
18 something without the input of your
19 family, and I think this bill addresses a
20 lot of that.

21 Any other comments?

22 (No response.)

23 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Councilman
24 Green.

25 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you,

1 6/1/11 - PUBLIC HEALTH - BILL 110304, ETC.

2 Chairwoman.

3 I'd like to thank you, Antonio
4 and Kenyada, for your very thoughtful and
5 meaningful testimony. I've had the
6 opportunity to learn a lot in this job of
7 being a City Councilman and to grow as I
8 see in compassion and a bunch of other
9 things that I see, different life
10 experiences and different -- just people
11 I get to meet, and this is certainly
12 another one of those moments for me. So
13 I want to thank you for that. Just it's
14 clear that you had painful childhoods.
15 It's clear that you're adults and you
16 understand that it was wrong, and it's
17 clear that you are going to try to make
18 the world a better place because of that
19 experience, and coming here and
20 testifying today, I want you to know, you
21 should be very proud of yourselves,
22 extremely proud. So I want to thank you
23 for that.

24 I also want to say that this
25 bill wouldn't be before you if I hadn't

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2 about nine months ago had a conversation
3 with my legislative counsel, Stacey
4 Graham, who is behind me. Stacey aged
5 out of foster care herself, and I said to
6 her, Stacey, take something you know a
7 lot about, do something and work on it to
8 come up with your own bill, come up with
9 your own legislation, and Stacey started
10 working on this. Before I knew it, she
11 had talked to Commissioner Ambrose,
12 talked to people in the system, come up
13 with the Freedom from Abuse Rights, whole
14 package. And so I'm just glad that I can
15 be the Councilperson who gets to
16 introduce really Stacey Graham's
17 legislation to make foster care a safer
18 and better place for children. And so
19 I'm proud to be able to do that, too.

20 This really is about educating
21 children about the basic human right not
22 to be abused. It's about informing
23 children about what constitutes abuse
24 through age-appropriate information and
25 providing them with contact information

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2 to child protection professionals who can
3 look at abuse. And it's really our hope
4 that with continued collaboration with
5 DHS and others, that we can make this
6 system a better place for everybody, and
7 thank you for your testimony today.

8 (You're welcome.)

9 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you
10 very much, Councilman.

11 I'd just like to ask both of
12 you, did you have social workers and were
13 you able to communicate with the social
14 worker of your environment?

15 MR. McCASKILL: I had a social
16 worker, but, I mean, I got visited every
17 four, about five years because I was so
18 far out and the caseload was so hectic
19 that she had, that I really didn't get
20 enough contact with her and explain what
21 I wanted, what I was grieving. And plus
22 on top of that, with the case worker,
23 when she did get to come out, I mean, I
24 was so young, at the age of six, like you
25 can manipulate a kid almost to where like

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2 you can give him certain -- how could I
3 say -- like benefits for telling a lie,
4 so that you can get them to stay out
5 there. Because basically out there like
6 when you're in DHS like for housing kids,
7 like they have 52 kids in a group home,
8 that's basically like a lot of money for
9 you to keep them out there and keep your
10 bed. So you get a certain stipend for
11 that kid.

12 So basically they manipulated
13 me and told me that to say everything is
14 fine, nothing is going on. And maybe
15 they have raised my level one time, but
16 they knew again and again I would act up,
17 so that level would go back down maybe
18 the next week. So I was experiencing a
19 lot of that. And basically like I was so
20 young, so I got manipulated a lot like
21 verbally, saying that your mom didn't
22 care about you. So I forgot about my mom
23 and I probably -- I really didn't really
24 care.

25 So, I mean, I wasn't -- the

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2 meeting with my case worker was probably
3 like three, four minutes, and that's not
4 enough time to voice what should be going
5 through her and how good --

6 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: How long
7 were you there?

8 MR. McCASKILL: I was there
9 from -- actually, like a little bit
10 before six, like five and a half to 16,
11 almost 17. So ten years.

12 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: So you
13 spent your whole life in Hazleton in this
14 group home with 52 other children?

15 MR. McCASKILL: Yes.

16 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: How many
17 staff members were there?

18 MR. McCASKILL: About like 26,
19 and it was like -- it was an RTF.
20 Basically I went to school off grounds,
21 but at the end of the day, I had to come
22 home to the group home. And it wasn't no
23 cops. It was just like if you flipped
24 out, like a needle in your behind, and
25 you'd go to sleep -- or a restraint.

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2 Like I got a broken arm once, a broken
3 collar bone from a restraint. I got
4 slammed through a table. I went through
5 a lot of abuse in that place. And
6 because the staff were particularly so
7 close, it was a tight-knit group there
8 and they worked so long, some staff was
9 married in the group and stuff like that,
10 so it was a lot of secrets there. It was
11 a lot of just shady stuff going on, them
12 hiding my clothes. My mom was sending me
13 clothes up there and a bunch of letters.
14 When I got home, my mom said she sent me
15 over like 400 letters. I only got two
16 letters. My brother was sending me
17 clothes, like the newest fashions and
18 stuff, and they was given to other kids.
19 And I know that sometimes I would go in
20 there and notice that some of the
21 sneakers wasn't like of that -- like
22 their kind that they had up in Hazleton,
23 but I never would have thought about it,
24 because I had no knowledge. I was always
25 wearing second-hand stuff while people

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2 was getting the top line stuff. I
3 wouldn't take heed to it. So it was a
4 lot of them lies and deceptions and people
5 always taking advantage of me up there.

6 COUNCILWOMAN TASCOT: Thank you.
7 Kenyada.

8 MR. KITCHEN: I've always had
9 social workers and child advocates, and
10 I've noticed that the only time I got to
11 see my social workers were basically kind
12 of like the day before court, before we
13 would go like -- so it would be like six
14 months to a year, depending on if they
15 were switching me to another placement or
16 not. But mostly it would be the social
17 workers were against mine once we got in
18 front of the staff members, and when you
19 say certain things, they'll kind of like
20 push it down or act like it doesn't
21 matter because it's coming from like the
22 child. And most of the time in my cases,
23 they would just kind of push it away and
24 just, you know -- and I would just feel
25 like I just couldn't bring it up again,

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2 because it was something that I felt
3 everybody agreed with and how it should
4 be. So with me, that's kind of how it
5 was. And I felt like the child advocate
6 will always stick up for me, but it would
7 be our word kind of against theirs and
8 they can't say but so much, because it's
9 kind of usually a whole team with them,
10 with the agency.

11 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Are you
12 still dealing with that agency,
13 Commissioner?

14 COMMISSIONER AMBROSE: We are
15 trying to figure out -- what was the
16 agency?

17 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: What was
18 the agency?

19 MR. McCASKILL: It was United
20 Charities Children's Fund.

21 COMMISSIONER AMBROSE: No. I'm
22 pleased to say we don't have a contract
23 with them.

24 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Who was
25 it?

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2 MR. McCASKILL: United
3 Charities Children's Home.

4 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: United?

5 MR. McCASKILL: Charities
6 Children's Home.

7 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Councilman
8 Jones.

9 And let me recognize
10 Councilwoman Brown now, who makes our
11 quorum, and after Councilman Jones,
12 you --

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: Just real
14 quick. We're swearing you guys in as
15 junior Councilpeople right now. If there
16 were three changes you would make to the
17 system, what would they be?

18 MR. McCASKILL: I would say
19 more continuity. I wouldn't say like --
20 yeah, I would say more continuity between
21 the case workers and the children. I
22 know the case worker can only get ever so
23 close to the kid without breaking their
24 professionalism, but at the end of the
25 day, like a lot of -- I know there's a

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2 lot of good case workers in DHS and I
3 know their job is extremely hard to get
4 things across without breaking their
5 professionalism. You would want to go
6 past that boundary and help that kid even
7 more, because you know you can't because
8 that professionalism, you always got to
9 keep it there with the kid, and at the
10 end of the day, it's business. So I
11 would feel that would be one.

12 Another one would just
13 basically -- I mean, just take the kid's
14 word as more of a staple of what they
15 want to do. So say if I wanted to go to
16 school out Temple or something like that
17 and the agency was like, No, I don't want
18 you to go do that or this and that and
19 the other thing. I mean, at the end of
20 the day, it's the kid's life, not yours.
21 So I feel as though you should do what
22 you want, regardless within -- with your
23 life.

24 And the third one, I would say
25 more background checks on the staff

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2 itself, because the staff -- like you're
3 putting our lives, the youth lives, in
4 the hands of the staff, and basically
5 when you get placed out there so far like
6 I was, I mean, it was a lot of continuity
7 between staff. Like I said, a lot of
8 them was in marriage and stuff like that.
9 So a lot of secrets didn't get out and a
10 lot of stuff happened to me because it
11 was a tight-knit group.

12 Just more of an investigational
13 thing, I would say, because it goes on a
14 lot and it's a lot of -- half the case
15 worker stuff that really -- they wouldn't
16 look at in the visit, like probably more
17 of the surrounding settings, where the
18 kids sleep, have them go upstairs, like
19 give them more, I mean, access to
20 different stuff within that. So, yeah.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.

22 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: What are
23 you doing now?

24 MR. McCASKILL: Who, me? I
25 work for the Juvenile Law Center. I'm a

1 6/1/11 - PUBLIC HEALTH - BILL 110304, ETC.

2 youth advocate. I travel to different
3 places, like Harrisburg, change different
4 rights within the foster care system.

5 I'm currently in Community College. I'm
6 going to try to get my Associate's in
7 nursing. So I'm trying to fix my fastest
8 so I can go for that.

9 I'm trying to just do different
10 stuff, get my summer internship, a paid
11 summer internship. I'm trying to get my
12 own house again. So I'm just trying to
13 get my life back in order.

14 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: And,
15 Kenyada, what are you doing now?

16 MR. KITCHEN: Right now I just
17 finished up a program at the Wharton
18 School of Business and I'm working on
19 developing a business, being an
20 entrepreneur, which is fashion design.

21 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Good.
22 Councilwoman Brown would be interested in
23 that.

24 We recognize her.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Good

1 6/1/11 - PUBLIC HEALTH - BILL 110304, ETC.

2 afternoon, gentlemen. Let me first thank
3 Councilman Bill Green for this bill, and
4 I believe Councilman Jones was
5 co-sponsor. It's obvious that many of us
6 on City Council care about what's
7 happening with our young people, and DHS
8 has made enormous strides in making
9 systemic changes so that -- because your
10 stories can probably be multiplied a
11 thousand times over. So that needs to be
12 put on the record first.

13 I was going to ask the question
14 what are you doing now, because many of
15 us are well aware that too many of our
16 kids age out the system and never, ever,
17 ever find what you two have done, a
18 center-place where you can get your life
19 where you want it to be.

20 To Commissioner Ambrose, my
21 follow-up question on this agency is, how
22 long have they been let go and what
23 signals or red flags have been put in
24 place systemically to capture agencies
25 like this that put our kids at that kind

1 6/1/11 - PUBLIC HEALTH - BILL 110304, ETC.

2 of risk?

3 (Witness approached witness
4 table.)

5 COMMISSIONER AMBROSE: Good
6 afternoon. Anne Marie Ambrose,
7 Commissioner, Department of Human
8 Services.

9 I'm actually not sure what
10 agency Antonio is talking about, but
11 we'll debrief with him after. We don't
12 have a contract with that agency and we
13 haven't since I've been Commissioner, nor
14 do I know of that name through my
15 experience as a child advocate either.
16 So I'm going to have to check into that.

17 The safeguards that we've put
18 into place are more intensive contract
19 monitoring, which are program analysts
20 going out and visiting our agencies at
21 least every six months and doing a
22 thorough review of the cases. Since I've
23 been Commissioner, we now include talking
24 to children alone instead of when staff
25 are there and talking to staff separately

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2 as well, so we can include a qualitative
3 analysis into our review of the programs.

4 Additionally, if there's a
5 concern, if we know of a concern, then we
6 do a special review of those providers
7 when there's a concern. So we have a
8 special investigation unit within our
9 monitoring program.

10 Additionally, what I would say
11 is, it is heartbreaking to me that
12 Antonio would go years without a visit,
13 and so one of the things that we've
14 recently implemented actually in July of
15 last year is monthly visits are required
16 for all of our children in any type of
17 placement setting or any home situation.

18 Additionally, the older youth
19 units, with both of these gentlemen,
20 inform the Department about what we
21 should be doing in the development of our
22 older youth units, have tried to create
23 the role of a mentor instead of a case
24 worker. As Antonio described, that case
25 worker for older youth should be in a

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2 different position, have a smaller
3 caseload and really be able to talk to
4 the youth about what are their goals, how
5 can we get them on the right track and
6 really use their voice to inform the case
7 planning process. Instead of everybody
8 always telling them what's going to
9 happen for them, they need to have a
10 voice in their future and have some
11 direction in where things go.

12 So the system has many, many
13 problems. I think we've made some
14 incremental improvements, but we
15 certainly have a long way to go.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Sure.

17 Sure.

18 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you
19 very much.

20 Any other questions?

21 MR. McCASKILL: I have a
22 concern. About the group home, my mom --
23 like before I was even put into the group
24 home, I was investigated by DHS, like I
25 was cleared. That was by like the age of

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2 three or four. And after that, like my
3 mom started calling like at the age of
4 five, like my mom started calling around
5 group homes, like literally calling group
6 home, and they found United Charities
7 Children's Home out Hazleton, PA and
8 these two people came down to get me. I
9 wasn't referred to there. So I wasn't
10 referred to there by DHS, and I guess the
11 people from that group home went and did
12 everything to get me referred there. So
13 I was there for like a couple months
14 without being referred and they wasn't
15 getting any type of stipend or anything
16 for me. So I could say that.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BROWN: Okay.

18 COUNCILWOMAN TASCIO: Thank you
19 both very much for coming in to testify
20 and thank you for your work, Mr. Fashion
21 Designer and Antonio, and trying to help
22 better the system, too. But good luck
23 with both of you in what you're trying to
24 do. We appreciate it.

25 MR. KITCHEN: Thank you.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you.

3 Next, Ms. Ambrose, you want to
4 stay here. You and Brandon Stokes,
5 Philadelphia Youth Commissioner, are
6 next.

7 (Witnesses approached witness
8 table.)

9 MR. STOKES: Good afternoon,
10 Councilwoman Tasco and all members of the
11 Public Health and Human Services
12 Committee of City Council. My name is
13 Brandon Stokes and I am a Youth
14 Commissioner on the City's Youth
15 Commission.

16 As you know, the Commission
17 aims to represent the voices and views of
18 the more than 300,000 youth and young
19 adults across our great city. I
20 appreciate the opportunity to address you
21 this afternoon concerning the Youth
22 Commission's support of Council Bill
23 110304.

24 As a child growing up, I was
25 physically abused at the hands of my

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2 stepfather, so I know just how far a bill
3 like this, if passed, would go towards
4 reducing the level of continued abuse of
5 children, but I had to learn another way
6 that abuse was not right. That way came
7 by my teachers noticing certain marks or
8 swellings on me. Sometimes it was the
9 blood that had dried from my cuts or
10 welts from whippings from other nights.

11 My teachers would then call the
12 Department of Human Services, and a
13 social worker would pull me out of class.
14 She would then proceed to ask me a range
15 of questions, such as family composition,
16 discipline styles of both parents, but
17 she never once told me that I didn't have
18 to be abused or that the abuse I was
19 subjected to was not my fault. A bill
20 like the Freedom from Abuse Rights is
21 long overdue.

22 It is my belief that the
23 passage of this bill will empower abused
24 children to be more proactive in seeking
25 intervention and protection from their

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2 abusers. This legislation will also
3 inform children that abuse is not right
4 and, perhaps equally as important, that
5 it is not their fault that they are
6 victims of abuse. This is the first step
7 in preventing and/or stopping abuse, a
8 step that I encourage Council to take
9 today.

10 I make one additional request
11 of Council today, and, that is, to
12 broaden this legislation to distribute
13 the pamphlet proposed by Freedom from
14 Abuse Rights anywhere children are, be it
15 recreation or community centers, public
16 libraries, school health classes,
17 religious groups, churches, synagogues,
18 mosques that serve youth groups. While
19 FAR takes an important first step to
20 empower children who are vulnerable to
21 subsequent abuse, there is much more that
22 can be done through community outreach
23 and information campaigns to prevent the
24 first occurrence of abuse from ever
25 happening. Only then can we change the

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2 story about child abuse.

3 Again, on behalf of the
4 Philadelphia Youth Commission, I urge, we
5 urge the passage of Council Bill 110304.
6 We applaud Councilman Bill Green, DHS
7 Commissioner Anne Marie Ambrose and all
8 others involved with this legislation for
9 their leadership on this issue.

10 I am pleased to answer any
11 questions you may have.

12 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you
13 so much for your testimony. We certainly
14 thank the Youth Commission for their
15 continued participation in legislative
16 issues that are brought before the City
17 Council. I see Mr. Harris is back there.
18 He's the Director of the Youth Commission
19 and really keeps you all involved, and
20 thank you for your testimony. I
21 appreciate it very much.

22 We'll have Ms. Ambrose speak
23 and then we'll ask questions.

24 COMMISSIONER AMBROSE: Good
25 afternoon. My name is Anne Marie Ambrose

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2 and I am the Commissioner of the
3 Department of Human Services. DHS
4 currently provides services to 22,628
5 children. Of these, 43,043 are in foster
6 care, 782 families are receiving services
7 in the home and 24,713 families receive
8 community-based prevention services.
9 Each year, DHS does approximately 1,300
10 child abuse investigations and
11 assessments. We are the largest county
12 child welfare agency in the Commonwealth.

13 I am here today because I
14 believe that all children have the right
15 to be free from abuse, and I am here
16 today to support the goals contained in
17 Councilman Green's ordinance, the Freedom
18 from Abuse Rights legislation, to inform
19 children and youth of their rights to be
20 free from abuse and to prevent child
21 abuse.

22 As we all know, the center of
23 Pennsylvania's child welfare system are
24 children. There are many others who are
25 dedicated to serving the best interests

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2 of children, the parents, caregivers,
3 case workers, providers, the courts.

4 However, it is critical that children
5 themselves are informed about their
6 rights in foster care as well as their
7 rights to be free from abuse.

8 While children in foster care
9 are some of the most vulnerable members
10 of our community, they can also be their
11 own best advocates if they have a full
12 understanding of the system. It is for
13 this reason that DHS has embraced the
14 recently passed state law, the Children
15 in Foster Care Act. This new law
16 requires DHS and other county child
17 welfare agencies to provide children who
18 are entering foster care with information
19 about their rights while in foster care
20 and process of filing a grievance if
21 their rights have been violated. This
22 includes the right while in foster care
23 of freedom from harassment, corporal
24 punishment, unreasonable restraint and
25 physical, sexual, emotional or other

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2 abuse.

3 Councilman Green's ordinance
4 takes this concept one step further in
5 that it requests DHS to also provide
6 children who are subjects of
7 substantiated child welfare
8 investigations as well as those children
9 who are in foster care with more detailed
10 definitions about what physical, mental
11 and sexual abuse is. The goal here is to
12 give children and youth additional
13 information so that if they are subjected
14 to abuse, they will know what is wrong
15 and that they can get help to prevent it.
16 We at DHS support these goals.

17 DHS believes that providing
18 children and youth with information is an
19 important component of preventing abuse,
20 but our work does not stop here. DHS
21 partners with schools, medical providers,
22 community-based organizations and others
23 to get the word out that we all have a
24 role in preventing child abuse and
25 reporting it when it occurs. Public

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2 education is a core aspect of our
3 prevention work. And where children do
4 experience child abuse, where
5 appropriate, we engage parents to provide
6 supports to improve their parenting
7 skills and prevent abuse from occurring
8 again.

9 I look forward to working with
10 City Council to help ensure that all of
11 Philadelphia's children are safe.

12 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you
13 very much.

14 Councilman Green, do you have
15 any questions?

16 COUNCILMAN GREEN: No. I just
17 want to thank the Commissioner for
18 working with my office and Stacey over
19 the last several months to get to the
20 point where we're at. There's been a lot
21 of meetings and a lot of cooperation with
22 your office, and thank you very much.

23 COMMISSIONER AMBROSE: She's
24 been great to work with.

25 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you

1 6/1/11 - PUBLIC HEALTH - BILL 110304, ETC.

2 very much.

3 Any questions?

4 (No response.)

5 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you
6 so much for your testimony and for taking
7 time to come down. I'm sorry that you
8 had to go through that. But you seem to
9 be a fine young man right now.

10 MR. STOKES: Thank you.

11 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you.
12 Just don't pass it on. Thank you.

13 Our next panel will be Maria
14 McColgan, Dr. Maria McColgan, Chris
15 Kirchner and Michael Stinson.

16 (Witnesses approached witness
17 table.)

18 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Good
19 afternoon.

20 DR. MCCOLGAN: Good afternoon.

21 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Would you
22 state your name for the record and begin
23 your testimony.

24 DR. MCCOLGAN: Maria McColgan.

25 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: You may

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2 proceed.

3 DR. MCCOLGAN: Thank you.

4 Good afternoon. Thank you for
5 the opportunity to testify in regard to
6 the Freedom from Abuse legislation, Bill
7 No. 110304. I'm Dr. Maria McColgan. I'm
8 the Director of the Child Protection
9 Program at Saint Christopher's Hospital
10 for Children and the Medical Director and
11 Chair of Prevent Child Abuse
12 Pennsylvania.

13 Each year at the Child
14 Protection Program at Saint Christopher's
15 Hospital for Children we see over 500
16 children who are suspected victims of
17 child abuse and neglect. As a child
18 abuse pediatrician, I've seen thousands
19 of children similar to Antonio and
20 Kenyada and have witnessed the terrible
21 trauma that these children and their
22 families suffer.

23 Many studies have shown that
24 children who have suffered child abuse
25 and neglect lead to longstanding life

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2 consequences such as mental illness,
3 risk-taking behaviors and mental health
4 consequences. In the United States, the
5 estimated annual financial burden of
6 child abuse and neglect is \$104 billion
7 in indirect and direct costs. That's why
8 when the Pennsylvania Academy of
9 Pediatrics asked me to help build the
10 Prevent Child Abuse Pennsylvania chapter,
11 I was eager to get started.

12 The mission of Prevent Child
13 Abuse Pennsylvania is to prevent child
14 abuse and neglect for all children in
15 Pennsylvania before it occurs. Child
16 abuse prevention is possible. That's why
17 Prevent Child Abuse Pennsylvania is
18 teaming up with various agencies
19 throughout the state to make child abuse
20 prevention a priority. We all have a
21 role to play, and I'm hoping that you,
22 the members of City Council, will enact
23 legislation that will begin to make child
24 abuse prevention a priority in
25 Philadelphia.

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2 There's no doubt that all
3 children have a right to be free from
4 child abuse and neglect. Each and every
5 adult in our society has the
6 responsibility to protect that right.
7 Children in foster care, as you know, are
8 particularly vulnerable. As a child is
9 placed into foster care in an effort to
10 keep them safe when there's no
11 alternative, that's when they are most
12 needy of protection. It's our
13 responsibility to protect each foster
14 child's rights and ensure their safety.

15 One step that we can take is to
16 empower children with knowledge. Many
17 children feel powerless to protect
18 themselves. And while we must be careful
19 not place too much of the burden on the
20 children themselves, providing them with
21 safety education is an important tool in
22 a child's safety and well-being.
23 Children must know what abuse is, and
24 they must know what to do if they feel as
25 if they're in danger. These children who

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2 often do not know who to trust must know
3 that there are many adults in
4 Philadelphia like yourselves who are
5 ready and able to help them. They also
6 must know how to find that help.

7 That's why I'm here to ask your
8 support of Councilman Green's ordinance
9 which recommends that DHS provide
10 detailed, age-appropriate information to
11 children regarding the right to be free
12 from abuse, with specific information on
13 definitions of "abuse" and who to contact
14 if the rights are violated. By educating
15 and empowering children, we are taking a
16 step in the right direction to prevent
17 abuse.

18 But remember, this is just one
19 step in many steps that remain to be
20 taken. There are many, many things we
21 could do to prevent child abuse, such as
22 raising public awareness of the problem
23 of child abuse and neglect and
24 encouraging every member of society to
25 get involved in the life of a child.

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2 Examples include providing support to a
3 parent if stressed, providing safe
4 childcare to help a parent out, and by
5 stepping in by calling Childline when
6 there's a concern that a child is being
7 abused or neglected.

8 In addition to your support
9 today for the Freedom from Abuse Rights
10 legislation, I hope that you will
11 continue to support efforts to protect
12 every one of our children. Remember,
13 prevention is possible, and at Prevent
14 Child Abuse Pennsylvania, we're working
15 to make it a priority, and we hope that
16 you will help to make it a priority here
17 in Philadelphia.

18 Thank you for your support.

19 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you
20 very much for your testimony. We
21 appreciate the work that you all are
22 trying to do and for your advocacy.

23 DR. MCCOLGAN: Thank you.

24 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Chris
25 Kirchner.

1 6/1/11 - PUBLIC HEALTH - BILL 110304, ETC.

2 MS. KIRCHNER: Sure. I don't
3 have any formal remarks. I apologize.
4 I'm sort of here for emotional support,
5 but I just wanted to say as the Director
6 of the Philadelphia Children's Alliance,
7 we partner with DHS and the Police
8 Department to do coordinated child sexual
9 abuse investigations in our facility
10 right around the corner, and I was here
11 this morning speaking about our
12 co-location initiative that we're working
13 on to further improve collaboration on
14 these important cases.

15 But I just wanted to say that
16 when I met with Stacey and heard her
17 story and looked at her proposal, I just
18 thought this seems like such common sense
19 and it seems like something that we
20 should have been doing a long time ago.
21 We absolutely need as many tools as
22 possible to protect our kids, to prevent
23 them from being abused, and telling them
24 that they have the right to be free from
25 abuse seems like a logical tool to use in

1 6/1/11 - PUBLIC HEALTH - BILL 110304, ETC.

2 our efforts to protect them.

3 So I just wanted to come to
4 support this bill and to go on record as
5 in favor of moving forward with this
6 ordinance.

7 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Well,
8 thank you very much. We appreciate that.

9 Mr. Stinson.

10 MR. STINSON: Thank you. My
11 name is Michael Stinson. I'm here in
12 support of the Freedom from Abuse Rights
13 legislation.

14 By way of a larger
15 introduction, my name is Michael Stinson.
16 I'm the Director of Prevention Services
17 for the Joseph J. Peters Institute in
18 Philadelphia. For those of you who
19 aren't familiar with JJPI, what we do,
20 JJPI has been in Philadelphia since 1955
21 and we started out as a prison program
22 for convicted sex offenders. Over the
23 years, we've transitioned into a program
24 that does both counseling and therapy for
25 both victims of child sexual abuse and

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2 also offenders. So it's both ends of the
3 spectrum. My job is community outreach,
4 to take the idea that child sexual abuse
5 is preventable, out into the community to
6 give people in the community a platform
7 where they can talk about the issue of
8 child sexual abuse. It's the only
9 citywide program in Philadelphia that's
10 focused solely on child sexual abuse
11 prevention.

12 While the focus of my program
13 is on child sexual abuse prevention, our
14 advocacy and goal is the same as everyone
15 else who is here today, to end the abuse
16 of children.

17 Children who have become the
18 victims of abuse often suffer in silence.
19 There are few champions that they can
20 call on to step in and stop the abuse.
21 The lives of millions of children
22 nationwide are profoundly affected by the
23 experience of child abuse. When child
24 abuse is domestic, happening within the
25 home environment, abusive events are more

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2 often repetitive and escalating in
3 intensity. Domestic violence and abuse
4 disproportionately impact children by
5 creating more trauma-sensitive response
6 patterns. Children who endure
7 environments of domestic violence are
8 held hostage by the events around them.
9 They experience the impact and live
10 through the aftermath. They absorb all
11 of the emotions without the ability to
12 process them. They learn from example
13 and behave by exposure. Whether
14 biological or non-biological family
15 members, children have little access to
16 resources to end the abuse and even fewer
17 rights to oppose their offenders. The
18 Freedom from Abuse Rights legislation is
19 a step in the right direction.

20 In my experience with
21 communities in Philadelphia, one of the
22 biggest issues that continues to
23 perpetuate child abuse, particularly
24 child sexual abuse, is the lack of
25 realistic and usable resources. Whether

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2 focused on adults, adolescents or
3 children, the lack of resources that
4 effectively work to end abuse and start
5 the transition to healing from abuse are
6 in short supply. Children most often
7 rely on adults to trigger an action that
8 leads to the end of abuse, but if the
9 offender is that adult, children must
10 either bear that burden of abuse or hope
11 that someone will notice the behavior and
12 intervene. The Freedom from Abuse Rights
13 legislation provides children with
14 another resource, another mechanism to
15 intervene on their behalf and provide for
16 their safety.

17 I would like to applaud
18 Ms. Stacey Graham and Councilman Green
19 for their direction in this effort on
20 behalf of child abuse prevention and
21 intervention in Philadelphia. Preventing
22 child abuse requires a change in mindset.
23 It's a process rather than an individual
24 action. Besides offering an additional
25 level of resource to Philadelphia's

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2 children, consideration of FAR gives us
3 an opportunity as a community to look at
4 what we've done so far and where we need
5 to go. I think that a lot of people look
6 at child sexual abuse prevention efforts
7 as one and done. Here's a program,
8 someone is working it, I guess I don't
9 have to be involved. For those of us who
10 see it and experience it firsthand, we
11 know it is a process. It will take more
12 than one voice, more than one program and
13 more than one focus to make it end.
14 Working together, we're on the right
15 track. Adding the Freedom from Abuse
16 Rights legislation as a responsible
17 resource for child abuse prevention is an
18 important part of that process.

19 Thank you.

20 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you
21 very much.

22 Let me just ask you a question,
23 because the whole issue of child abuse
24 has been discussed for many, many years,
25 and have you seen a decrease with this

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2 whole openness and information about
3 child abuse, have you seen a decrease in
4 child abuse, whether sexual or just plain
5 physical abuse?

6 MR. STINSON: From the
7 experience that I have and working at
8 JJPI, I don't see that there's been any
9 reduction in the number of cases. They
10 flow through the course of the year.
11 There's ups and downs.

12 We do a public health education
13 campaign, but it has a PSA attached to
14 it, and when that information floods out
15 into the community, there are more cases
16 after that that are reported, because
17 people get an idea that, wow, there's
18 something out there, I never knew maybe
19 that that behavior that I was directing
20 towards children or somebody else is
21 sexually abusive behavior.

22 I think that when you go out
23 into the community, people want to talk
24 about the issue, but they just don't have
25 a platform to say the things that they

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2 want to say or to ask the questions that
3 they want to ask. The program that I
4 have that goes out into the community is
5 that platform for people. It gives them
6 that voice.

7 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Doctor,
8 how about you?

9 DR. MCCOLGAN: There's several
10 studies recently. National studies show
11 that child sexual abuse affects one in
12 three to four women before the age of 18
13 and one in six boys before the age of 18
14 and that physical abuse affects anywhere
15 between one and four to one and nine
16 children before the age of 18, and we
17 know that neglect are even higher
18 numbers.

19 Recent studies of child abuse
20 maltreatment reports and substantiated
21 cases have shown a decline in all types
22 of abuse, particularly sexual abuse.
23 However, there's a lot of debate on what
24 those numbers really mean, is it a true
25 decrease in the amount of abuse or is it

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2 a change in the way we are substantiating
3 cases and treating cases. So there is a
4 lot of debate.

5 I too can say that I have not
6 seen a decline in cases and actually have
7 seen an uptick in the past couple years
8 with the recession and are very steadily
9 busy ever since then.

10 MS. KIRCHNER: And we track
11 pretty closely the number of reports of
12 alleged sexual abuse that DHS gets, and
13 we've been tracking that since 1992, and
14 in the '90s, I think we were at our peak
15 of about DHS receiving 160 to 180
16 allegations of sexual abuse every month
17 to investigate, and in 2010, the average
18 was 130 reports, similar to 2009, which
19 was close to 140. So it looks like some
20 of our reports are down slightly in
21 Philadelphia. It's still a startling
22 number, 130 reports a month. And those
23 are reports. I think some of the
24 controversy that Dr. McColgan refers to
25 is reports of sexual abuse across the

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2 country may be down slightly, but is
3 incidence down. And no one is quite sure
4 if incidence is down or not.

5 DR. MCCOLGAN: And there's also
6 many cases that never get to the point
7 where they're reported, because children
8 keep it silent for so long, and this bill
9 would allow children to have a voice
10 because they would have a person that
11 they could contact when they have no
12 other option.

13 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you
14 very, very much for your testimony and
15 taking time to come out, and we
16 appreciate it. Thank you.

17 DR. MCCOLGAN: Thank you very
18 much.

19 Thank you, Stacey and
20 Councilman Green.

21 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: We have
22 one last panel. Wendy Aguirre and Shelly
23 Yanoff.

24 (Witnesses approached witness
25 table.)

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2 MS. AGUIRRE: Good afternoon.

3 My name is Wendy Aguirre. I'm the
4 Executive Director for CASA, which is
5 Court-Appointed Special Advocates of
6 Philadelphia County. At CASA, our staff
7 and volunteers work hard to make lives
8 better for our City's abused and
9 neglected children.

10 We currently are working
11 with -- our volunteers are currently
12 working with 140 children that are placed
13 in the foster care system, and they
14 donate approximately 700 hours per month
15 to advocate in Family Court on behalf of
16 these children. They ensure that their
17 placement, education, health and their
18 well-being needs are met and that their
19 voices are heard.

20 CASA supports Bill No. 110304
21 as yet another way to inform children of
22 their rights and to educate them about
23 child abuse prevention while they're in
24 the child welfare system.

25 And I want to thank you and

1 6/1/11 - PUBLIC HEALTH - BILL 110304, ETC.

2 thank Councilman Green and Stacey for --
3 just to express our support for this
4 bill. I think it's great, and I'm happy
5 to answer any questions you might have.

6 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you
7 very much.

8 Shelly.

9 MS. YANOFF: Hi. Shelly
10 Yanoff, Executive Director of Public
11 Citizens for Children and Youth.

12 We've heard very emotional
13 testimony today and there's little that I
14 can add, except that we support the bill.
15 And I just want to just note that
16 children often feel not listened to. I
17 took particular enjoyment in hearing the
18 young man from the Youth Commission. We
19 worked real hard to get kids on to a
20 commission that's talked about that they
21 had rights, and I think that it's really
22 important that we understand that it's
23 not just children who are in the welfare
24 system, who are in foster care, but all
25 children have the right to be free from

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2 abuse, and they should understand what it
3 is and to have some procedure that they
4 know that they can follow, some person
5 they can contact when they think they've
6 been abused.

7 So we certainly support the
8 bill. Thank you, Councilman, and thank
9 you for doing this, and that's all.

10 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you
11 for taking time to come out and testify.

12 I understand Stacey is the
13 moving party on this piece of
14 legislation. You're getting all the
15 accolades today, and I'm certainly sure
16 that your heart was in this, and we thank
17 you for bringing it to our attention,
18 moving to take some action to help
19 children and to help families. So thank
20 you very much.

21 Councilman Green.

22 COUNCILMAN GREEN: Thank you.
23 Before you are a couple of amendments,
24 which are technical amendments requested
25 by the Administration and the Law

1 6/1/11 - PUBLIC HEALTH - BILL 110304, ETC.

2 Department, which we are perfectly happy
3 with. I will note for the record that
4 prior to introduction of the bill, we did
5 work hard with the Administration and the
6 bill originally encompassed every child
7 under DHS's care, and that would have
8 meant that people for whom a neglect
9 report is given and investigated would
10 have been given the FAR warnings even if
11 they stayed in their home or other
12 things. We, at the request of the
13 Administration, took that provision out
14 and now it's just children in DHS's care
15 or foster care. So DHS's care in the
16 sense that there's a substantiated abuse
17 report, they can then get the FAR
18 warning. Or they're in foster care
19 itself, they get the FAR warning, every
20 child.

21 We're hopeful to sort of see
22 what kind of impact this has, and if it's
23 proving to be worthy, we may look at
24 trying to expand the number of people
25 that DHS would be required to give this

1 6/1/11 - PUBLIC HEALTH - BILL 110304, ETC.

2 warning to. Of course, they could do so
3 voluntarily if they chose to by
4 regulation.

5 Thank you, Madam Chair.

6 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you
7 very much.

8 Thank you for your testimony.

9 That ends our hearing on these
10 bills. We will now go into our public
11 meeting. And we will hold Bill 110346.
12 That will be recessed until Tuesday, June
13 7th at 2:00 p.m.

14 The Chair calls on Councilman
15 Jones to report out Bill 110374.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
17 Madam Chair. I make a motion to report
18 out Bill No. 110374 with a favorable
19 recommendation, that the rules of Council
20 be suspended, thus allowing the next
21 reading at our scheduled meeting.

22 (Duly seconded.)

23 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you.
24 It has been moved and seconded that Bill
25 No. 110374 be reported out of Committee

1 6/1/11 - PUBLIC HEALTH - BILL 110304, ETC.

2 with a favorable recommendation and that
3 the rules of Council be suspended so this
4 bill can be heard at Council's next
5 session.

6 All in favor will say aye.

7 (Aye.)

8 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Those
9 opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: And let me
12 recognize Councilman Kenney, who has
13 joined us. That creates a quorum.

14 The Chair recognizes Councilman
15 Kenney for Bill 100755.

16 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Madam
17 Chair, I move that Bill No. 100755 be
18 reported out of this Committee with a
19 favorable recommendation and a request
20 for rules suspension to allow for first
21 reading at our next Council session.

22 (Duly seconded.)

23 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: It has
24 been moved that Bill 100755 be reported
25 out of Committee with a favorable

1 6/1/11 - PUBLIC HEALTH - BILL 110304, ETC.

2 recommendation and that the rules of
3 Council be suspended so this bill can be
4 heard at Council's next session.

5 All in favor will say aye.

6 (Aye.)

7 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Any
8 opposition?

9 (No response.)

10 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: There
11 being none, this motion is carried.

12 The Chair recognizes Councilman
13 Goode on the amendment to Bill 110304 as
14 presented.

15 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you,
16 Madam Chair. I move that the amendment
17 to Bill No. 110304 be approved.

18 (Duly seconded.)

19 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: It has
20 been moved and seconded that Bill 110304
21 as amended -- that the amendment for Bill
22 110304 be adopted.

23 All in favor will say aye.

24 (Aye.)

25 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Any

1 6/1/11 - PUBLIC HEALTH - BILL 110304, ETC.

2 opposition?

3 (No response.)

4 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: There
5 being none, the amendment is adopted.

6 Now, Councilman Goode, we call
7 on you to report Bill 110304, as amended,
8 out of Committee.

9 COUNCILMAN GOODE: Thank you,
10 Madam Chair. I move that Bill No.
11 110304, as amended, be reported out of
12 Committee with a favorable recommendation
13 and the rules of Council be suspended so
14 as to permit first reading at our next
15 Council session.

16 (Duly seconded.)

17 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: It has
18 been moved that Bill 110304, as amended,
19 be reported out of Committee with a
20 favorable recommendation and that the
21 rules of Council be suspended so this
22 bill can be heard at Council's next
23 session.

24 All in favor will say aye.

25 (Aye.)

1 6/1/11 - PUBLIC HEALTH - BILL 110304, ETC.

2 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: There
3 being no opposition, the motion is
4 carried, and this Committee is
5 recessed -- well, this Committee is
6 adjourned until the call of the Chair.

7 Thank you.

8 (Committee on Public Health and
9 Human Services adjourned at 3:45 p.m.)

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2 CERTIFICATE

3 I HEREBY CERTIFY that the
4 proceedings, evidence and objections are
5 contained fully and accurately in the
6 stenographic notes taken by me upon the
7 foregoing matter on June 1, 2011 and that this
8 is a true and correct transcript of same.

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13 -----
14 MICHELE L. MURPHY
15 RPR-Notary Public
16
17
18

19 (The foregoing certification of this
20 transcript does not apply to any reproduction
21 of the same by any means, unless under the
22 direct control and/or supervision of the
23 certifying reporter.)
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