

UNfavorable for HB1122

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Dear Committee,

This bill is a trojan horse tied to Senator Lee's recently completed taskforce.

The child abuse taskforce, which just completed, included a person/persons who has - for years - advocated for out-of-court testimony by toddlers....

for the non-lawyers that thing is called HEARSAY....

hearsay of toddlers and young children to be allowed as testimony.

This bill was sparked by that taskforce, not "vulnerable adults".

I ask you to look through this shellgame.

There is a reason this HEARSAY is not used. There is a reason that it's not used in particular in child cases. Toddlers as a group don't have the consistency, temerity and clarity to provide detail for court testimony. DSS and CPS already work a multitude of cases against people suspected of harming children and prosecute as evidence provides. If a particular case is tough, we do not suspend our legal system so the person investigating the suspected abuse DISREGARDS the law to "enforce" the law. We especially do not do so when this person (or persons) has a known bias against parents. It is unbelievable that you can hear testimony where he denigrates with broad brush (and no statistics) a certain gender, certain race...unbelievable.

The bias is rife. This bill is a trojan horse. Toddlers and young children can provide information to stop and prosecute abusers. Court testimony has a different standard.

And if this group TRULY wanted to stop child abuse they'd visit 300 North Gay Street to follow up on cases there, as did your former colleague, Sen. Barbara Robinson did.

You either care about kids or you don't.

Committee, please ignore these bills with an agenda.