

**Favorable Statement**  
**SB0536/HB833: Divorce and Annulment - Removal of Barriers to Remarriage**  
**Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee**  
**House Judiciary Committee**  
**February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

It is an honor and a privilege to be standing before you. I am truly humbled by this opportunity.

A Holocaust survivor bears a son who becomes an abuser, my Nazi who through tyranny and control tried to strip me of my dignity. The warm, and sunny California became a life that was dark and bleak. When I found out my first son was deaf, I was shocked and confused but knew there was a silver lining that he wouldn't hear the name calling and yelling that I was succumbed to daily. As you see, I was blamed for everything, from a shoe missing at the babysitter to the scribble on the wall, for the formula that didn't last until the end of the month, to the missing sippy cup. When the heat broke in January after my daughter was born, he refused to have it fixed. He would withhold money, refuse marital relations, call me stupid, idiot, and a liar to punish me. At one point he even disconnected the phone and then tapped my cell phone.

It was a nightmare, a living Hell.

"My way or the highway," was his mantra and after leaving twice, I realized that I would have to escape. I packed out a box a week for a month and reshuffled the clothing. On one fateful day in June 2003, I took my luggage, my 3 kids and my faith and fled to Baltimore. I chose life instead of caving in.

Thank G-d we were able to reestablish our lives.

**15 years later, I still do not have my "get." He sat in jail in Israel for six years and refused to accept \$120,00 rather than give the "get." I hope that you will rise up and take action to ensure that no woman is stripped of her dignity.**

About three years ago I met a wonderful man who would like to marry me. But how he can put the ring on my finger when my hands are shackled with these invisible chains!

Do your part to make every woman free.

Thank you.

Devorah Zonenberg