



**Criminal Law- First Degree Child Abuse – Continuing Course of Child Abuse –
HB277 SB 505**

Favorable

January 25, 2021

Dear Members of the Committee

I am a member of WISE and strongly favorable of HB277/SB505

Currently first- degree child abuse requires death of the child or a serious physical injury which is defined as a brain injury, bleeding within the skull, substantial risk of death, disfigurement or the loss or impairment of a bodily organ. First degree child abuse does not cover children with numerous healing fractures, repeated abuse, some burns or other injuries often diagnosed by medical professionals as torture. Instead, these repeated injuries can only be covered by 2nd child abuse which is not a crime of violence, maxes out at ten years which only requires a perpetrator to serve 1/4 of their sentence before they're eligible for parole. This puts a continued course of child abuse on par with misdemeanor second degree assault and does not provide the same needed protections to women and families.

Favorable

Monica O'Connor

WISE