

HB677

Good afternoon,

I am Ian's mom Liz. I want to thank all of you for giving us the time to give our testimony regarding HB677.

Ian moved in his own home in September 2017.

There were two cases of abuse noted.

1. Failure to Thrive confirmed by his PCP determined through weight, labs, and trends.
2. Physical Abuse showing multiple bruises on his chest and back. Police were called, police took pictures, abuser was named, and report was written but nothing could be done.

March of 2020-during Covid and lock down, Ian was with second agency. Three forms of abuse were noted.

1-Bruises were noted on Ian's arms and scratches on his neck. Police called, pictures taken, abuser was named, report written but nothing could be done.

2-Ian stated staff hit him with a broom. Police were called, report was written but nothing could be done.

3-I visited Ian on a Saturday and noticed staff person looked very tired and was doing homework. Staff indicated that he had been scheduled from Friday at 7PM to Sunday at 7PM. He was the only staff member with Ian. Monday I was called by Itineris Day Program saying that Ian came in crying and showed them his back, chest, and arms- all covered in bruises. His left ear was also swollen to the size of a walnut. This was later diagnosed as cauliflower ear. Police were called, pictures were taken, reports were made but nothing was done. The only thing that was done was the agency stated they could no longer care for Ian because of all the false allegations that he had made.

We moved Ian out in 2 weeks since this was the time limit that the agency allowed us and after 8 months of living with his dad, his stepmom and me, he now is with a wonderful loving agency. The cycle of abuse will continue unless HB677 passes. Since the victims cannot represent themselves in court because of their emotional challenges. There are also never any witnesses.

Please help our "Vulnerable disabled Adults" they need you!!!

Thank you.

Ian's mom

Liz Wetherington

02/10/25