

October 13, 2015

Re: "The new Era in the Fight Against Methamphetamine in Iowa"

Dear Senator Grassley,

As a grandparent who has seen the impact methamphetamine use can have upon a family, I would like to share some of my observations regarding the problem and the effect on innocent children in the family.

Children from families with meth use are unnecessarily victimized as a result of their parent's personal problem due to the manner in which CPS handles these cases. Allegations of substance abuse are considered founded child abuse even though the child may have never been harmed in any way. Does the child face a risk of harm? Yes, if an intervention and treatment for the parent is not initiated. But what typically happens is, the children are abruptly removed from the home, placed in non-relative foster care, where statistics show is more abusive than the home from which the child is removed!

Iowa Supreme Court has ruled that a parent's drug usage does not indicate the child is imminently likely to be abused, yet week after week, children are the victims of child abuse allegations. The child is further punished by being restricted to weekly visits with the parents, often placed in another school or day care away from friends and relatives. Subjected to therapy and other interrogations, all while under the risk of being adopted out as a result of their parent's treatable problem.

This method of "child welfare" causes more harm to the child than what may have resulted in the home. Of course, we all know this aggressive form of "child protection" is all part of the current requirement in order for the state to receive federal funding to support child protection industry which has evolved into government funded child trafficking. An industry you are fully aware of.

A second concern is the fact that the "War on Drugs" is so well federally funded, that now another industry has evolved. With so much funding to be lost if and when the "meth problem" is successfully addressed, how diligent do you think efforts to solve this problem really are? In Iowa, it is so profitable, that the methods for drug testing, validity of the results and bidding for labs and collections sites are under investigation for fraud.

How many committees, councils, boards, commissions, agencies are profiting from the "meth problem"? This does not include the criminal justice system, whose livelihood depends upon the faults of others.

What about the federal, state, county and municipal employees who are given charge over the problem? Are they leading by example, by being required to do pre-employment and random drug testing as is done in the private sector? Why are they not included in a Drug Free Workplace policy like the private sector?

We know of a survey of Iowa DHS social services workers whose results revealed 96% of participants are using drugs and alcohol for stress reduction. How many are using meth and then crucifying parents for the same? Its time to end the hypocrisy and make everyone accountable.

Respectfully,
Nancy Augustine