



SUPPORT SB 1684/ HB 3169

SB 1684— Sponsor: Sen. Lightford

HB 3169— Sponsor: Rep. Canty

PROTECTING INNOCENT FAMILIES ACT

Ensuring Due Process & Transparency in Child Welfare

The Protecting Innocent Families Act introduces vital reforms to protect the rights of families within the child welfare system. By focusing on transparency, accountability, and due process, the bill targets systemic issues that disproportionately impact vulnerable families, especially families of color. Key provisions include:

- **Right to Know:** This bill ensures parents are notified when their child is evaluated by a medical professional contracted by DCFS. By guaranteeing transparency, it empowers parents with the knowledge and involvement they need to protect their rights and actively participate in decisions affecting their child's well-being during investigations.
- **Right to a Second Opinion:** Families have the right to seek a second medical opinion when an initial diagnosis of abuse or neglect is made. This provision is essential in preventing wrongful removals based on misdiagnoses or hasty conclusions, particularly in cases involving children with complex medical conditions that result in findings that can be mistaken as indications of abuse or neglect.
- **Enhanced Accountability through Data Collection:** This bill mandates the collection of comprehensive data on child abuse investigations involving doctors contracted by DCFS. By strengthening oversight, it helps identify and address systemic issues, such as racial disproportionality, ensuring a more fair and equitable child welfare system for all families.

For more information:

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This bill does not impact medical providers who diagnose and treat individuals, nor does it change the responsibilities of mandated reporters. It also keeps all current investigative procedures in place and allows contracted medical professionals to continue fulfilling their duties.

Proponents of SB1684/ HB3169

- ACLU Illinois
- Ascend Justice
- Cabrini Green Legal Aid
- Center for Integrity in Forensic Sciences
- Chicago Appleseed Center for Fair Courts
- Cook County Justice Advisory Council
- Family Justice Resource Center
- Greater West Town Community Development Project
- Holistic Birth Collective
- If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice
- National Association of Social Workers, Illinois Chapter
- Illinois Black Advocacy Initiative
- Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- Illinois Prison Project Action Fund
- The James B. Moran Center for Youth Advocacy
- Legal Action Chicago
- Office of Cook County Public Defender
- ParentalRights.org
- Roll Call Organization
- Shriver Center on Poverty Law
- She Votes Illinois



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