



Child Custody Protection Act: As America Embraces Life, Democrats Use Deception

By Melanie Mitroff

Joyce Farley testified of every parent's nightmare.

"On August 31, 1995, I discovered my 13-year-old daughter Crystal was missing from home," she said in 2004 before the Senate Judiciary Committee. "An investigation by the police, school officials, and myself revealed the possibility that Crystal had been transported out of state for an abortion."

Joyce retold how, to her horror, the mother of the 19-year-old who had raped then 12-year-old Crystal had taken her daughter out of school and out of Pennsylvania, to circumvent a parental consent requirement, into New York for an abortion.

Crystal also testified. "I think all the time about how things would have been different if my mom was with me or if I had told her I was pregnant," she said. "I would have been taken care of with love rather than how I was treated."

"After the abortion things started to go wrong right away and just kept getting worse until my mom took me to our family doctor and on to the hospital. Since the first abortion I had was incomplete, the procedure needed to be repeated. Going through all this was the most terrifying time of my life."

The Farleys' tragic story is only one of many still going on to this day.

Ever since the Supreme Court found a "right" to abortion in the Constitution in

1973, states have attempted to regulate and reduce abortions. One type of regulation, parental involvement laws, has always had overwhelming public support. In 1992, 20 states had parental involvement laws, and by the time George Bush came to the oval office, 32 states had such legislation. Today almost 40 states have them.

Individuals attempt to get around these laws by transporting minors, without their parent's knowledge, into other states. Indeed, many abortion clinics in such states advertise "no parental consent required."

The Child Custody Protection Act (CCPA) prevents anyone other than a parent or guardian from taking minors out of states with parental notification laws into states that do not have them. First introduced in the House in 1998, CCPA failed to get to the Senate floor four times. When it finally did in July, Democrats attempted to attach amendments to undermine the bill and give reasons for Republicans not to vote for it.

One amendment would have allowed grandparents and clergy to escape prosecution when transporting minors—particularly troubling considering that it can take only five minutes to obtain a clergy license on the Internet. Thankfully, the bill's sponsor, Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-California), didn't offer her amendment.

Other amendments allowed for the bill to exempt minors who were pregnant through incest, and sought to fund comprehensive sex-ed programs that focused solely on contraception.

All of these amendments failed.

With more than 80 percent of the American people in favor, it was no surprise that majorities in both the House and the Senate supported the CCPA. The Senate passed it 65-34. However, its liberal wing, which has proven itself beholden to pro-abortion special-interest groups, is blocking its signing into law.

Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Illinois) objected to the bill on "procedural grounds," thus stalling its arrival at the White House.

Sen. John Ensign (R-Nevada), the bill's sponsor, spoke about the objection in *The Washington Times*: "It is underhanded and disingenuous, and it needs to stop now."

Lanier Swann, CWA's Director of Government Relations, agrees. She said, "Just because this happened late in the evening doesn't mean the American public should be left in the dark. Battling over the right of parents to play a role in protecting their minor daughters is not fodder for political antics."

Take action: The American people must know that the left's games are placing young girls at risk, far from the safety and care of their parents. Call Senate Democrats and urge them to follow the bipartisanship displayed by the margin of victory in both chambers, and allow the CCPA to move on for the President's signature. **Capitol Switchboard: 202-225-3121.**

Melanie Mitroff is a student at Liberty University and a CWA intern. For more information, visit www.cwfa.org, or call 1-800-323-2200 to request your copy of our CCPA Talking Points. ■