

Re: In Support of An Act Relative to Custody of a Child of a Parent Convicted of Murder, House Bill No. 1853

Dear Representative/Senator:

I urge the passage of House Bill 1853, "An act relative to custody of a child of a parent convicted of murder." It is imperative that the Commonwealth protect all children whose parent has murdered the other parent - what can only be imagined as a terrifying and confusing experience. I am inspired by the strength of Patrick Holland who was 8 years old when his mother was fatally shot by his father in their Quincy home. Patrick's efforts to sever all legal ties were a very brave act. His efforts to push for this legislation though it will no longer effect him personally has motivated me to join him in speaking up for other children who might be faced with such a horrendous decision.

I want to help Patrick make sure no other child has to endure the legal wrangling that he did and ensure that murder is grounds for termination of parental rights. "Patrick's Law" would help children who live in similar circumstances and protect them from being placed with an abusive parent.

With only a few weeks left in this legislative session, I urge you to do everything you can to see that this bill becomes law this year.

Sincerely,