Chairman, Ginter, and the Community Family Advancement Committee,

I'm in favor of HB 309. Parents who are blind are just as capable of raising their children, the same way sighted parents raise theirs. My wife and I are totally blind, and we were granted custody of our niece when she was 6 years old. Unfortunately she wasn't receiving the care needed, so my wife and I felt it in our hearts to pursue custody. Our Magistrate was very understanding of our situation, and was certainly a champion of enabling my wife and I to do what was best for our Niece. In fact, our Magistrate was very impressed to find out through our situation that parents who are blind all over the United States take great care of their children! Since our custody was granted nearly 5 years ago, my Niece has a great quality of life! She's doing very well in a Catholic School, and enjoys playing Soccer.

Thanks to the great work of the National Federation of the Blind. I've learned through this great organization, all people who are blind are just as vital as people who are sighted, regarding all areas of life.

Best regards,

Dave Perry,