

Software Workshop Incorporated  
55 E. Genesee St.  
Baldwinsville, NY 13027  
January 7, 2005

Mr. Robert Walker, Esq.  
Senate Select Committee on Ethics  
220 Hart Building, United States Senate,  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Walker:

I am the President of a small Internet company and also a Coordinator for a group of loving mothers and fathers concerned with Family Law reform. Specifically, the recognition and protection of the Civil Right of parents and children to be together as family. Our goal is a National Family Rights Act and our web site is <http://www.AKidsRight.Org/>. We have about a thousand registered members nationwide. Our primary message is love for our kids and our method is NonViolent Action as practiced by Gandhi and Martin Luther King.

We have visited the offices of many Members of Congress. We have met with the Syracuse and Washington staffs of Senator Schumer and Congressman Walsh and were treated with courtesy and respect – even though we did not have their complete support for our goals. *My letter to you today arises from far different treatment from the office of Senator Clinton. Which I feel is not only a discredit to the Senate but also a misuse of power. Before I go into details, let me give you just a bit of background into events. Our website also has a complete 'BLOG' of events.*

To emphasize our political concerns I would take a petition consisting of pictures of mothers and fathers unjustly separated from their kids and quietly walk outside the offices of Senator Schumer and Congressman Walsh (inside the Syracuse Federal Building). Initially there were arrests for simple trespass. The charges were dismissed and I was allowed to proceed without incident. Although we disagreed on the issues, their staffs never asked for prosecution, and a courteous relationship was maintained.

I feel they saw our efforts as part of the political process. At times members of our group would come to the building to watch me and also drop off petitions for reform at their offices without incident. I would ask people how they were treated by the staffs of Senator Schumer and Congressman Walsh and never received negative feedback. They certainly conducted themselves in a manner which is a credit to proper political discourse in a free nation.

Let me make clear that my efforts were never that of an angry 'protest' or a 'picket'. Animosity is directed toward no one. In recent times it appears that anyone who feels 'wronged' should have recourse to revenge and show their anger toward those who have hurt them. I hope our group of parents will remind people there is another way as demonstrated by Gandhi and King. People willing to accept more personal pain and sacrifice as a way of converting the hearts of others toward their plight.

*The situation was entirely different with the office of Senator Clinton.* While I have some experience in politics as a Democratic chairperson for a local town and have also done some ‘lobbying’ in Albany – most of our parents have never visited a political representative. They hurt deeply because of loss of contact with their kids and want to see change. Some of our parents when dropping off letters to Senator Clinton’s office were told to “Go! And don’t come back!” -- **Constituents are treated rudely.**

Attached to this cover letter are over fourteen different letters I have personally sent to the Senator – we have never received a reply. Every school children learns “How a Bill becomes a Law” – we have a draft Family Rights Act and are looking for feedback and help from Senator Clinton. We have had none. -- **Won’t participate in the legislative process.**

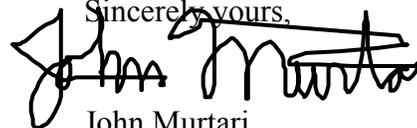
In my efforts to quietly walk and petition outside her offices they have actively sought prosecution from building officials and there have been many arrests. I was quite surprised one day to find that a Secret Service Agent wanted to interview me after a request from the Senator’s Washington office (I declined the interview). I was very disturbed to hear from a parent who later called the Senator’s office regarding the possibility of a meeting, they were told “the Secret Service was involved and it would not be possible.” – **Misuse of power.**

Presently, when entering the foyer area I have been pushed out of the building by Federal Police officers. Two officers are then assigned to watch me outside the building and block my access to any door ... but I am not charged with any crime? Last year Federal Police had arrested me on two occasions in the foyer of the building based on ‘intent.’ At an earlier trial US Magistrate DiBianco found me ‘not guilty’ for these incidents.

I find this new strategy very disturbing and a serious indignity to any citizen of our country. I am a former Officer and Pilot in our Air Force and stand amazed at these actions. How could a peaceful parent be pushed away from a Federal Building by armed security staff when trying to petition their Member of Congress? I feel this is being done in coordination with the Senator’s staff.

PLEASE, I submit this complaint because I think something wrong has happened that needs to be addressed by the committee. I have a great deal of respect for the Senator and know she is concerned about Family issues. I hope after a thoughtful review of events she can take some positive actions and we can make a fresh start.

Sincerely yours,



John Murtari  
315-635-1968, x-211  
jmurtari@AKidsRight.Org

**ATTACH:**

- 1) My resume and background.
- 2) Written correspondence to the Senator.
- 3) PDF version: [http://www.AKidsRight.Org/actionc\\_syr/ethics\\_page.pdf](http://www.AKidsRight.Org/actionc_syr/ethics_page.pdf)

## John Murtari - Resume

55 E. Genesee Street  
Baldwinsville, NY 13027

Office: (315) 635-1968 (x-211), Email: [jmurtari@thebook.com](mailto:jmurtari@thebook.com)

*\*\*items in italics are extra background*

### EDUCATION

**Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY** **Jun 1985 - Dec 1986**  
M.S. Computer Science GPA 3.4

*Lemoyne College/Syracuse University* *Jan 1985 – May 1985*  
*Religion/Ethics/Logic (18 semester hours)* *GPA 3.5*

**U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, CO** **Jul 1974 - Jun 1978**  
B.S. Astronautical Engineering Cum Laude, GPA 3.5, Order of Merit 72/981

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE/*LIFE*

**Divorce** Jun 1995 - Jan 1999  
*Papers served in Jun 95, final appeal to US Supreme Court exhausted Jan 99.*

**Knights of Columbus, Council #5082, Baldwinsville, NY** **1997 – present**  
*Fourth Degree member of the council*

**Software Workshop Incorporated, Baldwinsville, NY** Feb 1995 – Present  
Engineer – Private company specializing in Web Site Hosting & Design Services.  
<http://www.softwareworkshop.com/>

**Onondaga County Community College, Syracuse, NY** **Jan 1995 – Present**  
Computer Science Instructor - Taught classes in assembly language, C, and C++. Was able to apply extensive work experience to class room environment.

**Democratic Committee, Town of Lysander, NY** **Jun 94 - Jun 95**  
*Chairperson - Organized local campaign for another "reform" candidate for Town council. We lost a special election.*

*Congressional Candidate - Organized own campaign for party nomination to U.S. Congress -- withdrew because of family problems.*

**Oxford Street Shelter, Syracuse, NY** **Jun 85 - Mar 99**

*Volunteer - Made ham & cheese sandwiches and delivered them to the "Oxford" the last Sunday of every month. Son Domenic would help in making the approximately 90 sandwiches.*

**Trident Systems Inc, Fairfax, VA****July 1993 - August 1994**

Principal Systems Engineer - Perform system analysis and performance studies on the Seawolf Submarine combat system (BSY-2) at Martin-Marietta, Syracuse, NY. This is one of the largest distributed computing environments ever used on a military system. Extensive technical writing required to communicate areas of concern to upper management.

Son (Domenic Murtari) born

Feb 11, 1993

**Eclat Technologies Inc, Syracuse, NY****Sep 1991 - July 1993**

Project Leader - Managed a custom software development project for Eastman Kodak. This included responsibility for the overall design effort along with the conduct of software development reviews at the customer's facility. The project was a great success and resulted in a very satisfied customer.

Senior Software Engineer - Extensive use of X windows/Motif to support a client server application in a UNIX environment. Experience with C++ developing a Microsoft Windows application for operator control of a remote sensing device.

**Father (Domenic Murtari) dies at 97****Aug 89****General Electric Company, Syracuse, NY****Jan 1987 - Sep 1991**

Project Leader - Responsible for the complete integration and test of a \$1,500,000+ software maintenance facility to be delivered to a radar customer. This involved creation of a detailed schedule to integrate the efforts of many different organizations within General Electric. I brought a sense of order to what had been a very fragmented effort.

Group Leader - Lead a group responsible for the communications interface for a military air defense radar. Responsible for timing and sizing estimates. Extensive experience with project management tools (Project Scheduler & Harvard Total Project Manager).

**Aquinas House of Studies, Syracuse, NY****Jan 85 - Jun 85**

*Student - Left the Air Force with the intent of pursuing Catholic Seminary. Joined 6 older men in community home while attending classes. A VERY worthwhile experience -- left after realizing a strong desire to have a family. Along with earlier classes, completed a total of 18 hours in philosophy.*

**U.S. Air Force, Syracuse, NY****Nov 1982 - Dec 1984**

Operations Officer, Recruiting Squadron - Responsible for the supervision of 10 staff members; as second-in-command was instrumental in assisting the commander by formulating and implementing programs to achieve recruiting goals. Extensive experience in handling personnel problems. Played a key role in making the squadron #1 in 1983 for the entire Northeastern United States -- something which had not been done in five years.

**U.S. Air Force, Columbus, MS****Apr 1980 - Nov 1982**

T-37 Instructor Pilot - Gave students the knowledge, skill, and confidence necessary to pilot a jet aircraft through aerobatic, instrument, and formation maneuvers. Earned FAA Certificate as Commercial Pilot; accumulated over 1100 hours as pilot-in-command.

***I was born , Lyons, NY******Oct 2, 1956***

**Caterina & Domenic Murtari married, Calabria, Italy**

**1953**

*At the age of 61 my father left America and returned to Italy, he told family members he wanted to find a good bride and have a family (at that age I am sure they thought he was dreaming.) Having children was his great desire.*

***Domenico Murtari comes to America***

**1914**

*Leaves Italy right before WW I, and comes to America. Settles in Lyons, NY, and works as a laborer on the New York Central Rail Road for most of his life. Oldest of the family, he saves and pays for the voyage for the rest of his family to come to America: his mother, 2 sisters, and 4 brothers.*

*(My Mom) Caterina Murtari born of Francesco & Caterina Galluccio*

*July 21, 1916*

**(My Dad)** *Domenic Murtari born of Francesco & Caterina Murtari*

*April 13, 1892*

## Letter One (April 9, 2001)

c/o Software Workshop Inc.  
55 East Genesee Street  
Baldwinsville, NY 13027  
9 April 2001

Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton  
Hanley Federal Building, Room 111  
100 S. Clinton Street  
P.O. Box 7378  
Syracuse, NY 13261

Dear Senator Clinton,

I am a coordinator for a group of parents who are seeking Civil Rights legislation to recognize the basic right of both parents and children to be together. We are not a "Mother's" group or a "Father's" group. We are parents concerned about what has happened to our children. We have tried to understand that the Judges, Lawyers, and other professionals in the present "system" are doing the best they can -- but often with tragic results.

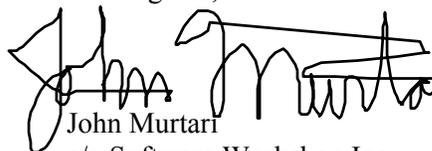
We believe it is time one of our most basic Civil Rights be recognized and given the protection it deserves: the right of a parents/children to associate with each other. The attached draft of the Family Rights Act of 2000 is an attempt to capture those ideals. We would like your help in getting this introduced as a Bill as soon as possible and hope you will join us in calling for Congressional Hearings into Family Law reform. We are not experienced "legislators" and look forward to working with your local staff in discussing the wording of the Act and making it better.

Certainly this Act will mean tremendous changes across the country and the presentation of such change will require leadership and understanding. We all look forward to hearing from you. I can be contacted via: phone: 635-1968, x-211, fax: 315-635-3243, email: [jmurtari@AKidsRight.org](mailto:jmurtari@AKidsRight.org)

On Monday, April 16th, members of group are gathering in Syracuse for a meeting and we do plan on just visiting your offices to drop off some petitions for reform and to attempt to schedule a follow-up meeting with your staff. Details at : [http://www.AKidsRight.org/plan\\_syr.htm](http://www.AKidsRight.org/plan_syr.htm)

Our group spokesperson, Mary Chancellor (Tennessee), can be reached at :  
phone : 423-326-0585, email: [contact@kids-right.org](mailto:contact@kids-right.org)

Best regards,



John Murtari  
c/o Software Workshop Inc.  
55 East Genesee Street  
Baldwinsville, NY 13027  
20 April, 2001

## Letter Two (April 20, 2001)

Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton  
Att: Cathy Calhoun, Regional Representative  
Hanley Federal Building, Room 111  
100 S. Clinton Street  
P.O. Box 7378  
Syracuse, NY 13261

Dear Cathy,

I wanted to thank you for the time you and Evan took to speak with us on Monday regarding Family Law Reform. I was a bit confused by the overall tone of the meeting and felt we left without really communicating. I think we could have done a better job in introducing ourselves and describing some of our basic concerns as parents.

As you know we are not professionals at this. We would like the Senator to endorse serious Family Law Reform at the Federal level. The Family Rights Act is our effort to capture some words on paper that reflect those goals – we need your help in working this through the legislative process.

I will try to contact you in the next week to setup a meeting with either of you to begin to review some of the wording in the Act. It seems we jumped ahead to whether it is a good idea, before we both established a common understanding of the meaning. Our membership would like her support and it is important to us to find out what might be objectionable and why. We understand there is give and take in the process.

Again, thanks for taking the time. You all seemed very busy that day and I do appreciate your effort to fit us in.

Best regards,

John Murtari  
315-635-1968, x-211  
jmurtari@AKidsRight.Org  
c/o Software Workshop Inc.  
55 East Genesee Street  
Baldwinsville, NY 13027  
25 June 2001

Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton  
Att: Cathy Calhoun, Regional Representative  
Hanley Federal Building, Room 111  
100 S. Clinton Street  
P.O. Box 7378  
Syracuse, NY 13261

### **Letter Three (June 25, 2001)**

Dear Cathy,

I called and left a couple of messages for you. Hadn't heard anything and was starting to get concerned. We would like the Senator to sponsor a Family Rights Act and the first step would be reviewing our proposed draft and finding out what looks good, and what might be a problem. I think some one-on-one meetings could be very productive in getting that done.

Once that is done, and I'm sure we may have some items of difference. I can bring that list to our membership to get their response to what the rationale was.

I hope the Senator will treat this as priority item and give you the time necessary to be responsive. I can meet with you at your earliest convenience.

Best regards,

John Murtari  
315-635-1968, x-211  
[jmurtari@AKidsRight.Org](mailto:jmurtari@AKidsRight.Org)

P.S. Just wanted you to know that I did read the book "It Takes a Village." I had heard so much about it on both sides that I just wanted to read it myself. I was encouraged by what she said as a reflection of her attitude towards children issues.

## Letter Four (Aug 23, 2001)

c/o Software Workshop Inc.  
55 East Genesee Street  
Baldwinsville, NY 13027  
August 23, 2001

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton  
United States Senate  
476 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Clinton,

I am resident of New York and presently involved in an effort to achieve National Family Law reform. We are a growing group of Mothers and Fathers who feel that the time has come for Federal Civil Rights protection for the family. Our website is <http://www.AKidsRight.Org/>

My specific reason for sending you this letter via FedEx is some tremendous problems we are having with your Regional Director for your Central New York office. We have a draft version of a Family Rights Act which we would like you to sponsor in the Senate and we met with Ms. Calhoun in April. It was a 'difficult' meeting and there seemed to be a desire to dismiss the whole issue. Since that time I have written to Cathy on two occasions and made numerous phone calls. I was able to get her on the phone once and was told a follow up meeting would be setup – but have been unable to reach her since then, with both calls and letters unreturned.

I am simply baffled by such treatment. Our group is trying to bring a sensitive and courteous tone to the reform effort. Our proposal is a draft and we would like to review it with you and your staff to get your feedback. I don't expect total agreement, but at least the start of a process in which we can both learn from each other.

I do not know your personal feelings regarding reform, although I did take the time to read your book, 'It Takes a Village..' Ten years ago I would have agreed with you entirely, but after seeing they system at work first hand I feel we need to set some government bounds and better define protections for the parent/child relationship.

This is a goal which will require both sensitive and strong leadership to achieve. We had hoped to establish some trust with your staff, but may need your help. I look forward to your response and hope that I can meet with your local staff next week !

Best regards,

John Murtari  
315-635-1968, x-211  
[jmurtari@AKidsRight.Org](mailto:jmurtari@AKidsRight.Org)

**P.S.** If you wish to review what has happened (and also the more positive reception we received from Senator Schumer's staff), please check [http://www.AKidsRight.Org/action\\_syr](http://www.AKidsRight.Org/action_syr)

CC: Ms. Cathy Calhoun

## Letter Five (Jan 4, 2002)

c/o Software Workshop Inc.  
55 East Genesee Street  
Baldwinsville, NY 13027  
January 4, 2002

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton  
United States Senate  
476 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Schumer, Senator Clinton & Representative Walsh:

I'd like to make this last minute appeal to you from Mothers and Fathers seeking reform of our Nation's Family Law "system." In the next few weeks I (and perhaps others) may be arrested and jailed in peaceful NonViolent Action outside your offices in the Syracuse, NY, Federal Building. Why?

Senator Schumer and Senator Clinton, after initial meetings with staff last spring -- we have had no follow up dialog. It seems almost unbelievable that we have not even received a written reply after several letters and petitions were sent to both your local and Washington offices. It may be that each of you is not even personally aware of what is happening? Do loving parents need to risk jail to focus the attention of our elected representatives?

Each of you has my sincere respect and I can appreciate your busy schedule and overworked staff. If a National Family Rights Act is so important, where are the hundreds of phone calls to your offices, the thousands of letters, the many thousands marching in the streets?

We can only ask each of you to consider stepping forward, being "proactive" and taking a leadership role in calling for Congressional hearings into the need for Civil Rights protection for families. Many of us, including myself, never gave the patchwork of well meant "family/child" legislation a second thought -- until being caught in the system ourselves, along with our children.

I hope each of you will be able to appreciate the agony of parents and children unjustly separated -- without the need for first hand experience. In the same way I hope you would have been able to appreciate the horrors of slavery, the injustice of being denied the right to vote, and the indignity of being seated in the "back of the bus." As parents we hope you will dare to exercise leadership to guide us in a struggle, that many foresee to be very contentious, but does not have to be so. That you will use your tremendous resources to help shape and educate public opinion.

We certainly can't expect you to immediately call for such hearings. Instead of jail, all of us would much rather work on dialog with your staff so we can both better understand the nature of the problem. Allow us to help in collecting witnesses and evidence of a system gone terribly wrong. At the end we expect to not only hear your decision about the need for

Congressional hearings, but also the rationale. Does the parent/child bond require Federal Civil Rights protection?

Why voluntary jail? Because we are not well funded lobbyists, nor are we a local group looking for funding for a project, or an improvement to existing laws. We are parents who have been deprived of our very dignity, the right to nurture our own children. Certainly the depth of our response should match the importance of our cause. As a military officer I was ready to make great sacrifice for my Country, does not my very child deserve that same devotion?

Please, this is an urgent matter and a year has almost elapsed. I noted with some irony a recent article in USA Today, about Members of Congress calling for hearings to discuss the nature of military tribunals to be used in the War on Terrorism. They wanted to apply our Constitution's greatest civil protections -- the standards of "proof beyond reasonable doubt" and "unanimous verdict of a jury" to these actions. If there is time for that -- don't the parents and children of this country deserve a discussion of those very same protections before being separated for potentially a life time?

On a personal note I wanted to let you know how impressed we were with the local staff of Senator Schumer, Jill Harvey did a simply outstanding job of "listening" to our group and providing important feedback. I also want to thank Representative Walsh for always taking the time to provide the courtesy of a written reply to our letters. We hope that will turn into a more meaningful dialog. We look to you all to help us through the political process.

I have attached some documents and references. There is so much more to say and do -- but first we need two sides interested in serious communication. Please let us know you are ready. You are welcome to contact me at my office (315) 635-1968,x-211; or also Yvonne Cook, our Public Relations person, at (219) 341-1925.

Respectfully yours,

John Murtari

CC: Kathy Calhoun, Senator Clinton Regional Rep.

CC: Jill Harvey, Senator Schumer Regional Rep.

Attach (both hard copy and web site link):

1. Recent Letter regarding reform - [http://www.AKidsRight.Org/actionb\\_syr/cover2.htm](http://www.AKidsRight.Org/actionb_syr/cover2.htm)
2. Potential Congressional Witnesses - [http://www.AKidsRight.Org/legislative\\_resources.htm](http://www.AKidsRight.Org/legislative_resources.htm)

**Letter Six (May 1, 2002)**

1 May 2002

Senator Clinton,

I am the coordinator for a Family Law reform group called AKidsRight.Org  
As part of observing Mother's day we will be visiting Washington on Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, with moms and dads who have had their relationship with their children effected by government action. We will be a small group of 5-10 people and will have some parents from Central New York with us. We hope to visit a few Senate & House offices between 9am and 3 pm on that date and hope you might have the time to meet briefly with us.

These are "regular folks" who have taken off time from work to make the long drive to DC for the sake of their kids. It would certainly mean a lot to them to meet a Member of Congress. We had the chance to talk to your staff locally last year and want to thank you for your letters regarding this matter. We hope to continue the dialog and want to bring to your attention the opinion of Constitutional Lawyer, Chester Darling, who has both argued and won cases in the US Supreme Court. I had the chance to speak with him at a recent parent's conference and he feels that the civil rights of parent's and children are being violated in many states. That this is a federal issue. He would be happy to testify before Congress to that effect.

We are asking for Congressional hearings into national reform and also the passage of a Family Rights Act. Our web site has a lot of details, <http://www.AKidsRight.Org/>

We understand the legal "traditions" that have resulted in States having jurisdiction over family law, but hope that hearings will show the necessity of giving the parent/child bond the Constitutional protections it truly deserves. Very similar to criminal law, each state is allowed to define its own rules & procedures – but, they must remain with the protections provided to all citizens of this country by the US Constitution, e.g. proof beyond a reasonable doubt, the protection of a jury, and the right to legal counsel.

We hope that after discussion and review, you will also join us in feeling that the family bond needs those same "due process" protections which should be respected everywhere in these United States.

We look forward to your response. You can reach me at any of the numbers below.

Best regards!

John Murtari  
jmurtari@AKidsRight.Org  
voice: 315-635-1968, x-211  
cell: 315-372-4830  
fax: 315-635-3243

## Letter Seven (July 22, 2002)

c/o Software Workshop Inc.  
55 East Genesee Street  
Baldwinsville, NY 13027  
July 22, 2002

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton  
United States Senate  
476 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Clinton:

I am a coordinator for a group of parent's seeking National Family Law reform (<http://www.AKidsRight.Org/>) A group of us will be outside your offices in Syracuse, on Monday, July 29th, in a continuing effort to petition you and get your support and guidance in this reform effort.

Unfortunately, one or more parents may be arrested in this very peaceful effort -- and it all seems so unnecessary. For over a year now we have attempted contacts with your local and Washington offices, some of us have even made the long drive to Washington (on our personal time and money) and no one from your staff could meet with us. We have written many letters to you and staff, but have just been unable to get a meaningful dialog started. Our web site documents our past efforts to reach you and what the response has been. **We would like to schedule a personal meeting with you and parents effected by our system.**

### **The issue is Civil Rights**

We believe recognizing parents have a basic Human Right to participate in the lives of their children is obvious – but is the time right? We are asking you to take the time to listen and see what is really happening – and to also draw analogy to the past, as you consider the many Members of Congress who have proceeded you in this Nation's history.

Have you ever wondered what those members were thinking of TWENTY years before:

- I. Slavery was ended.
- II. Women were granted the right to vote.
- III. Segregation was ended.

What would the response have been by you and your staff to:

- I. A slave coming to your office and asking you to protect their right to be free?
- II. A women coming to your office and asking for the simple right to vote?
- III. A black coming to your office and asking to sit in the front of the bus?

Would you have told them to go back, get better organized (and maybe – you have to wait, we are in the middle of a war or other crisis?). We all like to be “proactive.” Would you have taken the risk and lead on the issue before the rest of the Nation was ready to follow? The “Freedom Riders” sat in the front of the bus and were hauled off to jail. Do we have to make that same Sacrifice for the Love of our children also? **We are parents asking you to recognize the God given right we have to be**

**with our children, for protection from well intentioned government interference. Will you meet with us?**

**Protection of Family Rights**

We have a DRAFT Family Rights Act at our web site, <http://www.AKidsRight.Org/act.htm>. It is an attempt to restore balance in Family Law nationwide. Each state had the ability to establish its own criminal code and procedures, but was still required to remain within the U.S. Constitutions guarantees of: a presumption of innocence, real proof, and the protection of a Jury. There has been an explosion in well intentioned Family Law produced in each state, but without the firm guidance of our Constitution. The words “best interest of the child” have been used to justify any state action. WE ARE NOT calling for MORE FEDERAL INTERFERENCE, but less. The recognition of established constitutional protections to protect families

**We only ask the same principles used to protect liberty, also protect the bond between parents and children (probably an even more valued freedom) – the presumption of equal parenting, real proof, and the protection of a Jury.**

Respectfully yours,

John Murtari

CC: Kathy Calhoun, Senator Clinton Regional Rep.  
CC: Catherine Brown, Senator Clinton Legislative Aid  
CC: Hanley Federal Building Manager

## Letter Eight (Dec 12, 2002)

c/o Software Workshop Inc.  
55 East Genesee Street  
Baldwinsville, NY 13027  
December 12, 2002

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton  
United States Senate  
476 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

### **SCHEDULING REQUEST**

Dear Senator Clinton:

I am a coordinator for a group of parent's seeking National Family Law reform (<http://www.AKidsRight.Org/>). I was recently released from Jail after being given a ten day sentence by a Federal Magistrate Judge in Syracuse, New York. This was for a peaceful effort occurring outside your offices on the 14<sup>th</sup> floor. I was quietly carrying a picture of parents and children unjustly separated by our Nation's Family Law "systems." It is an attempt to arrange a meeting between you and parents on this issue.

For over a year now we have attempted contacts with your local and Washington offices, some of us have even made the long drive to Washington (on our personal time and money) and no one from your staff could meet with us. We have written many letters to you and staff, but have just been unable to get a meaningful dialog started. Our web site documents our past efforts to reach you and what the response has been (<http://www.AKidsRight.Org/newyork.htm>). **We would like to schedule a personal meeting here with you and parents effected by our system.**

On December 30<sup>th</sup> I will be returning to the building, and others may join me, to continue this effort (and the Judge has already told me I can expect a more severe sentence). We all hope this can be avoided by a positive response from you. I certainly know you care about children and family issues and am at a loss to understand the difficulty we have had in establishing a dialog. Several people have written you regarding this and I include additional copies of their letters for your review. I also have include copies of three recent newspapers stories reporting on these events.

### **The issue is Civil Rights**

We believe recognizing parents have a basic Human Right to participate in the lives of their children is obvious – but is the time right? We are asking you to take the time to listen and see what is really happening – and to also draw analogy to the past, as you consider the many Members of Congress who have proceeded you in this Nation's history.

Have you ever wondered what those members were thinking of TWENTY years before:

- I. Slavery was ended.
- II. Women were granted the right to vote.
- III. Segregation was ended.

What would the response have been by you and your staff to:

- I. A slave coming to your office and asking you to protect their right to be free?
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- III. A black coming to your office and asking to sit in the front of the bus?

Would you have told them to go back, get better organized (and maybe – you have to wait, we are in the middle of a war or other crisis?). We all like to be “proactive.” Would you have taken the risk and lead on the issue before the rest of the Nation was ready to follow? The “Freedom Riders” sat in the front of the bus and were hauled off to jail. Do we have to make that same Sacrifice for the Love of our children also? **We are parents asking you to recognize the God given right we have to be with our children, for protection from well intentioned government interference. Please help us.**

### **Protection of Family Rights**

We have a DRAFT Family Rights Act at our web site, <http://www.AKidsRight.Org/act.htm>. It is an attempt to restore balance in Family Law nationwide. Each state had the ability to establish its own criminal code and procedures, but was still required to remain within the U.S. Constitutions guarantees of: a presumption of innocence, real proof, and the protection of a Jury. There has been an explosion in well intentioned Family Law produced in each state, but without the firm guidance of our Constitution. The words “best interest of the child” have been used to justify any state action. WE ARE NOT calling for MORE FEDERAL INTERFERENCE, but less. The recognition of established constitutional protections to protect families

**We only ask the same principles used to protect liberty, also protect the bond between parents and children (probably an even more valued freedom) – the presumption of equal parenting, real proof, and the protection of a Jury.**

Respectfully yours,

John Murtari  
315-635-1968, x-211

CC: Kathy Calhoun, Syracuse Regional Rep.

### **ATTACH:**

- I. Mr. David Shackleton, Ottawa, Canada
- II. Mr. Ronald Johnson, Gainesville, Florida
- III. Mr. Alex Washington, Pottstown, Pennsylvania
- IV. Mr. Jacob Sell, Streator, Illinois
- V. Ms. Joan Kloth, Southbury, Connecticut
- VI. Mr. Timothy Joyce, New York, New York
- VII. Dr. C. Paul Sinhorn, M.D., Riverside, California
  
- VIII. Baldwinsville Messenger, Oct 16, 2002
- IX. Times of Wayne County, Oct 14, 2002
- X. Finger Lake Times, Oct 9, 2002

**Letter Nine (Sep 26, 2003)**

55 E. Genesee Street  
Baldwinsville, NY 13027  
26 Sep 2003

Office of Scheduling

Senator Hillary R. Clinton

Dear Ms. Volmoro:

I was contacted by Alex from the scheduling office several weeks ago and told to resubmit our groups request for a meeting with Senator Clinton. I'll be involved in peaceful activity outside your Syracuse office again on Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, other parents may join me.

We are having a hard time getting any "traction" on our concerns with the Senator. I certainly understand how busy all of you must be and the many constraints on her schedule. The Senator is certainly a powerful force on family issues and we'd like to arrange a meeting so that she can here first hand the experiences of loving parents who have lost meaningful contact with their children. Please reference the two attached prior letters for more detail.

Our goal for the meeting is not confrontation or to quiz the Senator on some of these issues. As a first step we just want to give her a chance to here from people affected by our "systems" of family law. We hope that will start a dialog with her office and she will be encouraged to call for Congressional Hearings into the need for reform at the national level. Again, we are not asking her to immediately take a position on the need for reform (or what the reforms might be) – but to just start the investigative process. We hope this is a reasonable request.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

Best regards!

John Murtari  
Coordinator, AKidsRight.Org  
315-635-1968,x-211 (office)  
315-430-2702 (cell)

**Attached (Letter Eight)**

July 31, 2003

Honorable Gustav J. DiBianco  
US Magistrate Judge  
**RE: United States v. Murtari (03-M-298 (GJD))**  
P.O. Box 7396  
Syracuse, NY 13261-7396

Dear Judge DiBianco:

I am enclosing a copy of a Notice of Motion and Affidavit regarding the matter pending before your Court. I realize your deadline was August 18<sup>th</sup>, but I wanted to submit it as soon as possible to hopefully avoid more problems. I have tried not to repeat the exhibits attached to the earlier motions. The “new” material is at the beginning of the motion and supporting affidavit.

I do plan on returning to the building on Monday, August 4<sup>th</sup>. I hope the Court will understand this is not something I “enjoy” and I mean no disrespect. This is not an attempt to show others you can “flaunt” the rules or ignore a Judge (nor do I present it that way to others). I am so thankful to have had the summer time with my Son and my mother in good health. I greatly appreciate the forbearance both you and Mr. Southwick have shown in the prosecution of this matter.

In brief words I can only ask the Court to adjudicate a “truce” between two parties that are both compelled in opposite directions. Mr. Southwick is a good man and he is compelled to prosecute me to the fullest extent of his abilities as a US Attorney (and he has done a good job) – I could not expect otherwise. I have not tried to turn the Court into a “political forum”, but I wish to take a moment to explain the forces that might also compel a good parent and citizen to take action as I have.

Since my divorce I have made a strong personal commitment to the reform of Family Law. One of the simplest questions I face is “what makes a civil right?” Do they come from our Constitution or from a Court decision? Part of the answer is clear: When we talk about essential civil rights (the right to life and liberty, freedom of religion) – they are all items for which people in the past were willing to sacrifice. Willing to put the rest of their life “on hold” on the basis of what they believed. Their sacrifice affirmed the value of the “right.” Just as in our Declaration of Independence, “We hold these truths to be self evident...” – and these words took on substance because people were willing to sacrifice.

Presently, more people are also beginning to see that the “right” to nurture your own child is valuable (how often we don’t appreciate something until it is gone?). I am a member of many mailing lists on the Internet, I see the news – and I’m disturbed by the trend to violence as a force for social change. Some even believe that explosions, suicides, or murders will bring the media coverage and public attention necessary to bring about Family Law reform?

This is something I reject strongly. The group AKidsRight.Org was formed based on strong historical lessons from the past. Most recently we draw examples from the efforts of Gandhi and Martin Luther King in bringing deep rooted social change where many thought impossible. Their method was “NonViolent Action” and it may be an approach we all need to remember.

When I began my actions several years ago (when my son was relocated out West), I felt a strong commitment to use the same approach. I am certainly no Gandhi or King, the risk of “jail” is nothing compared to some of the threats they and their followers faced. The web site is an

“experimental log” of what happened. The method calls for sacrifice and I certainly needed to show the method “works” – even in the 21<sup>st</sup> century!

**NonViolent Action - What is it?**

The groups holds up the ideal that people willing to demonstrate: Faith, Love, and Personal Sacrifice can be the means of effective social change. More specifically, that Parents can promote reform by demonstrating:

- 1) Faith in a loving God,
- 2) Love for their children, former spouses, and other "brothers and sisters", and
- 3) Willingness to make Personal Sacrifice,

NonViolent Action allows you to demonstrate through "unambiguous physical action" the depth of your Faith and belief in your "cause." It is a positive demonstration of love given at sometimes tremendous personal cost. ([http://www.AKidsRight.Org/civil\\_back.htm](http://www.AKidsRight.Org/civil_back.htm))

Many people are aware of the activity in Syracuse and most are frankly skeptical that it will do any good, “You can’t fight city hall...It’s no use beating your head against a wall...” I made a commitment to see the process through before I started – but this is not a blind path. So far I have been pleasantly surprised by how things have gone. It is a lesson many can learn from.

Yes, I am frightened every time I walk into the building and what may happen and will I be going home tonight? But I have never felt this is a waste. My summer with Domenic certainly shows me the effort must continue.

I hope the preceding helps you understand what “compels” me to action (and NO, my goal is not to become a martyr for some cause). No one more than I would like to wait for the Appeal process to be completed. It would certainly make it a lot easier. But my goal in coming into the Federal Building, was NOT to gain the right to walk peacefully around the halls. The goal was to start a dialog with our US Senator, Ms. Clinton, about Family Law reform so that the needless misery caused by our present system can be stopped. That cannot wait. Perhaps this willingness to sacrifice, will help Senator Clinton begin to see the issue as important.

I walked for many weeks in the building without any problems. I hope that may continue.

Respectfully yours,

John Murtari  
635-1968, x-211  
<http://www.AKidsRight.Org/>

**CC: Asst. US Attorney Southwick**  
Hanley Federal Building, Room 900  
100 S. Clinton Street  
Syracuse, NY 13261

**CC: Senator Hillary R. Clinton (Syracuse & D.C. Offices)**

**Letter Ten (Nov 29, 2003)**

c/o Software Workshop Inc.  
55 East Genesee Street  
Baldwinsville, NY 13027  
November 29, 2003

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton  
United States Senate  
476 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**SCHEDULING REQUEST**

Dear Senator Clinton:

I'm writing you this letter from a jail cell in Syracuse, New York. A Federal Magistrate gave me a 35 day sentence for peacefully petitioning you for help. My NonViolent Action was silently carrying pictures of parents and children near your office in the Federal Building.

I'm a coordinator for a growing group of loving mothers and fathers who were unjustly separated from their children through divorce, separation, or the action of child protective services. Our group's name is AKidsRight.Org.

We look forward to our Nation's recognition and protection of the right of our children to have TWO parents equally involved in their lives AND the right of parents to raise and nurture their own children. At this point we are not asking you to agree with or endorse these goals, but would like to continue the legislative process.

Our immediate goal is a local meeting between you and a small group of mothers and fathers associated with our group. We hope that after you have a chance to hear our stories and also from other groups – you will endorse a call for Congressional Hearings and eventually the creation for a Family Rights Act.

In the past two years we have visited both your Syracuse and Washington offices with few results. We have left many petitions for reform and not gotten any reply. A few of our members were told to, "Go and don't come back." The most unusual response from any Congressional Office we have visited. Full details at our web site:  
<http://www.AKidsRight.Org/>.

We can appreciate the busy schedule you and your staff members must have. I can only imagine the number of groups and different causes that must appeal to you for support. I wish our group of parents was better organized, had millions of members, and was better funded – we are not there yet. But many of us believe our cause is important: as much as the right of a black man to sit in the front of a bus or the right of a woman to vote.

Our method and strength is NonViolent Action and we are attempting to follow the recent historical examples of Gandhi and Martin Luther King. That positive social reform can be triggered, not by hatred, revenge, or violence – but by parents motivated by Faith in a Loving God. Parents willing to demonstrate to the public the love they have for their children by voluntary personal sacrifice.

As a coordinator for the group I am attempting to follow some of those goals. To demonstrate that NonViolent Action can work by my willingness to sacrifice one of my most valued rights, my freedom – to regain a more valued right – to be a parent to my own 10 year old son, Domenic.

PLEASE, we need your help! I need your help! The Magistrate was kind enough to structure my sentence so that I would be released in time to fly out West and pick up my son so we can spend Christmas together. We'll be together with my mother, Caterina, in our home town of Lyons, New York. I am her only child and Dom is her only grandchild.

She understands what I am doing and I am fortunate to have cousins in town that can help her with grocery shopping. She has been blessed with good health – she is now 87 and still lives with me in her own home. Both of my parents were Italian immigrants.

After the holidays I will again be returning to the Federal Building and probably more jail time. It is not something I enjoy and it is done at great risk to my family and my work. I am very thankful that Domenic is old enough to understand what 'Daddy does.' Some newspaper articles were an easy way to introduce him to what is happening by reading him a story. I always make it clear to him that Mom is not bad and this is not her fault – that like other people in the past, we are working to get a Human Right recognized.

The sacrifice of a few days in jail is minor compared to what people suffered in the past to get basic rights recognized. I am neither a saint or a devil, nor am I trying to become a martyr. Please do not see this as an attempt to 'black mail' you into a meeting.

I have no right to demand a meeting between you and parents, but I hope it will happen. As a former Air Force pilot it was not my goal to die, but to serve my country by willingness to sacrifice. As a loving parent I hope I have the courage and faith to show my son that same measure of devotion. Please help.

Sincerely yours,

John Murtari  
315-635-1968, x-211  
jmurtari@AKidsRight.Org

CC: Kathy Calhoun, Syracuse Regional Rep.

CC: Lona Valmoro, Senior Scheduler

**ATTACH:**

Hand written letter

## Letter Eleven (Apr 7, 2004)

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton  
United States Senate  
476 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

### **SCHEDULING/HELP REQUEST**

Dear Senator Clinton:

PLEASE, At 2 PM today I will be facing jail again for peacefully petitioning you for help. My NonViolent Action will be silently carrying pictures of parents and children outside your office in the Syracuse Federal Building. I have written you numerous times along with other members of the group and we have had no reply?

My hometown is Lyons, New York. I am a lector in my parish and scheduled to do the readings for Easter Sunday (but I may be in jail instead). The folks in my hometown understand my love of family and don't see me as a criminal. In the past I have been able to walk outside the offices of both Senator Schumer and Congressman Walsh in that same building. *It recently came to my attention from the US Attorney's office that your local staff was actually "asking for prosecution" in this matter.* I know you care about family issues and I hope someone can take the time to intervene.

I'm a coordinator for a growing group of loving mothers and fathers who were unjustly separated from their children through divorce, separation, or the action of child protective services. Our group's name is AKidsRight.Org (<http://www.AKidsRight.Org>)

Our immediate goal is a local meeting between you and a small group of mothers and fathers associated with our group. We hope that after you have a chance to hear our stories and also from other groups – you will endorse a call for Congressional Hearings and eventually the creation of a Family Rights Act.

An Act to recognize and protect the right of our children to have TWO parents (whether they be good, average, or poor parents) equally involved in their lives AND the right of parents to raise and nurture their own children. That will require parents be found guilty in a criminal court, with jury protection, of being a demonstrated serious threat to their children – before government can interfere in family life.

We can appreciate the busy schedule you and your staff members must have. I can only imagine the number of groups and different causes that must appeal to you for support. I wish our group of parents was better organized, had millions of members, and was better funded – we are not there yet. But many of us believe our cause is important: as much as the right of a black man to sit in the front of a bus or the right of a woman to vote.

Our method and strength is NonViolent Action and we are attempting to follow the recent historical examples of Gandhi and Martin Luther King. That positive social reform can be triggered, not by hatred, revenge, or violence - but by parents

motivated by Faith in a Loving God. Parents willing to demonstrate to the public the love they have for their children by voluntary personal sacrifice.

As a coordinator for the group I am attempting to follow some of those goals. To demonstrate that NonViolent Action can work by my willingness to sacrifice one of my most valued rights, my freedom – to regain a more valued right - to be an EQUAL parent to my own 11 year old son, Domenic.

The sacrifice of a few days in jail is minor compared to what people suffered in the past to get basic rights recognized. I am neither a saint or a devil, nor am I trying to become a martyr. Please do not see this as an attempt to 'black mail' you into a meeting.

I have no right to demand a meeting between you and parents, but I hope it will happen. As a former Air Force pilot it was not my goal to die, but to serve my country by willingness to sacrifice. As a loving parent I hope I have the courage and faith to show my son that same measure of devotion. Please help!

Sincerely yours,

John Murtari

315-635-1968, x-211

[jmurtari@AKidsRight.Org](mailto:jmurtari@AKidsRight.Org)

CC: Cathy Calhoun, Syracuse Regional Rep.

CC: Lona Valmoro, Senior Scheduler

**Letter Twelve (Aug 20, 2004)**

August 20, 2004

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton  
United States Senate  
476 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**SCHEDULING/HELP REQUEST**

Dear Senator Clinton & Staff:

I'm a coordinator for a growing group of loving mothers and fathers who were unjustly separated from their children through divorce, separation, or the action of child protective services. Our group's name is AKidsRight.Org (<http://www.AKidsRight.Org>)

I wrote your office back in April and others from our group have written more recently about events in the Syracuse Federal Building. I wish one of your staff would call me to talk about the situation. During an arrest last Spring I was completely amazed to find that your staff had asked the Secret Service to get involved as if I was some type of 'stalker.'

We are asking for a meeting not to put you on the spot. We are not going to be asking you what your position is on Family Reform issues – we just want you to be able to hear some real stories from devastated families. We are not the 'enemy', we are just parents. Being able to meet with you would send a very positive message to these parents – that their family concerns are important and will be addressed even though we are not well organized or well funded.

My effort and willingness to sacrifice my freedom is the greatest thing I can do to demonstrate how important I feel about the issue of reform. I wish this whole "thing" at the Federal Building could just come to a conclusion. I was almost not going to waste my time by writing again, but then I realized that would be a disservice both to you and to my confidence that reform will happen. (I include a copy of a letter to the US Magistrate Judge in this matter).

Sincerely yours,



John Murtari  
315-635-1968, x-211  
[jmurtari@AKidsRight.Org](mailto:jmurtari@AKidsRight.Org)

**CC:** Cathy Calhoun, Syracuse Regional Rep.

**CC:** Lona Valmoro, Senior Scheduler

**Letter Twelve (additional, Aug 20, 2004)**

34 Franklin St.  
Lyons, NY 14489  
August 20, 2004

Honorable Gustav J. DiBianco  
US Magistrate Judge  
**RE: United States v. Murtari**  
P.O. Box 7396  
Syracuse, NY 13261-7396

Dear Judge DiBianco:

I know we are scheduled for an appearance on August 31<sup>st</sup> at 4pm There has been a recent turn of events which I feel you must be alerted to as author of my "stay away" order. You also decided at Trial that just my 'intent' was not an offense until an act actually happened.

I returned to the building on Tuesday, August 17, to continue my effort to petition Senator Clinton for reform. Security stopped me and told me I would not be allowed in the building. They blocked my path to the doors. A staff member was assigned to watch me outside. I stayed outside quietly for two hours and then left. The same thing happened on Wednesday.

On Thursday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, I did have to go to the Federal Court Clerk's office. When I arrived at the building there was no one outside. I walked through the doors and one of the "blue jacketed" screeners told me, "You are not allowed here, Go!" (in a loud voice). I told him I had to go the Clerk's office, he just said, "Go!" I told him the Judge's order said I could go to other offices, he said, "I don't care, just Go!" While I was standing there he said just "Go!" and "Out!" several more times, it was embarrassing.

Finally, the Federal Police appeared and told me they would escort me to wherever I was going. I walked into the Clerk's office with two officers behind me and got the paperwork I needed. When we left I told the officers I wanted to go upstairs, they told me I could not, grabbed me by the arms (I did not resist), and escorted me from the Building. I stood outside for two hours again.

I plan on returning to the building and at some point will repeatedly try to gain entrance. I do not look forward to a confrontation. I've tried to conduct my affairs with dignity and minimal impact on Building operation, but we are now heading toward a new confrontation. The use of physical force and intimidation does not seem appropriate. **I ask the Court to stop these new actions and ask them to stop 'blocking' till a decision from you.**

**CC: Asst. US Attorney Richard Southwick, Esq.**  
Hanley Federal Building, Room 900  
100 S. Clinton Street  
Syracuse, NY 13261

**CC: Senator Clinton, Syracuse & Washington**

Respectfully yours,



John Murtari  
635-1968, x-211

<http://www.AKidsRight.Org/>

**CC Copy of Letter about Treatment (Sep 13, 2004)**

34 Franklin Street  
Lyons, NY 14489  
September 13, 2004

Mr. Richard Southwick  
Assistant United States Attorney  
RE: United States v. Murtari  
P.O. Box 7198  
100 S. Clinton St  
Syracuse, NY 13261-7198

Dear Mr. Southwick and Ms. Clinton:

Events at the Federal Building in recent weeks have caused me to reconsider my methods. I never expected to be 'pushed' away from the building as I attempted to contact a Member of Congress (but not charged with a crime). Physical force has been used to resolve an uncomfortable situation. This has placed me in a difficult position. I had to review all that has happened:

I am a peaceful and respectful parent trying to communicate with my Member of Congress about recognizing and protecting the Civil Right I have to be a parent to my own child. I have been:

- Arrested and tried unjustly. Found guilty of violating rules that don't exist or of actions that did not happen. I was surprised to find how 'weak' building rules were, but GSA has a giant staff and they should have rewritten their rules.
- Reported unjustly to the Secret Service (by my Member of Congress) for investigation and have staff use that as an excuse for no meeting to take place.
- Pushed around a Federal Building without arrest and had Federal Judge aware of the situation offer no protection.
- Subjected to a 'broad' stay away order that prohibits me from peacefully visiting the offices of ALL my Members of Congress in that building.

The 'overwhelming' physical power of the State separated me from my Son (and didn't care of the love we had), it has ruined my personal life and it is difficult for any parent to respond. I have no animosity toward the individuals, but what happened then (and now) is just plain wrong. I am being (was) treated like some kind of 'bag lady' that just needed to be pushed away....

Between the Offices of Senator Clinton and the US Attorney, and myself – we need to resolve this, but no one appears ready to reconsider. I know there are accommodations that can be reached in the ‘interest of justice.’ As a minimum, to allow a constituent to peacefully petition outside her offices on the 14<sup>th</sup> floor – if the Senator is still not ready for a meeting. But I think we need to “write things down” – that peaceful conduct will not be disturbed; I will not be ‘pushed’ away from the building again – that reporting a peaceful constituent to the Secret Service was a mistake.

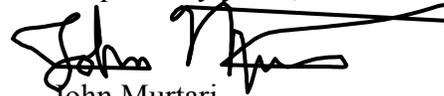
Both of you are in positions of great power and authority. I hardly think to pull back a bit would be seen as a sign of weakness. It would certainly be seen as a sign of compassion and graciousness. It would send a positive message to the many people watching this situation and who are cynical about government.

As the ‘weakest link’ I am hardly in a position to withdraw. It would too easily be seen as cowardice and lack of conviction (especially now that physical force is being applied). I would have to deny my belief in NonViolent Action and in the power of peaceful voluntary sacrifice in major social reform. What could I say to the loving parents of the AKidsRight.Org group – ‘it all sounded good in theory, but didn’t work out to well in practice?’

Most of all, what could I say to my son, Domenic. I have talked to him about Faith, and Love, and a God that loves each of us dearly (more than any parent loves their own child). He is old enough now to understand what Daddy ‘does’ to try to change things and I have talked to him about the Civil Rights struggle to break segregation. That people had to sacrifice and there was a lot of pain (and it is hard for him to understand why – it still is for me). But I have told him that ‘good things will happen’ and that ‘someday’ we will have a normal life together – how can I ever just walk away?

Please, I do ask you to act quickly and before the Court date next week. There is no need for more jail time here. Because of the change in ‘schedule’ I was able to plan a trip to see Domenic for the weekend with my mother – we even got a good deal on the fair (\$174 roundtrip Rochester to Denver). I am thankful for that time and so is Dom.

Respectfully yours,



John Murtari

<http://www.AKidsRight.Org/>

315-635-1968, x-211

315-430-2702 (cell)

CC: Federal Magistrate Gustav J. DiBianco CC: Senator Hillary R. Clinton/Washington CC: Senator Hillary R. Clinton/Syracuse
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## Letter Thirteen (Nov 4, 2004)

November 4, 2004  
The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton  
United States Senate  
476 Russell Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

### SCHEDULING/HELP REQUEST

Dear Senator Clinton:

I'm writing you this letter from a jail cell in Auburn, New York. A Federal Magistrate gave me a 44 day sentence for peacefully petitioning you for help. My NonViolent Action was silently carrying pictures of parents and children outside your office on the 14<sup>th</sup> floor of the Federal Building.

I'm a coordinator for a growing group of loving mothers and fathers who were unjustly separated from their children through divorce, separation, or the action of child protective services. Our group's name is AKidsRight.Org. We look forward to our Nation's recognition and protection of the Civil Right of children to have TWO parents equally involved in their lives AND of parents to raise and nurture their own children. We are not asking you to agree with or endorse these goals, but would like to continue the legislative process.

Our immediate goal is a local meeting between you and a small group of mothers and fathers associated with our group. We hope that after you have a chance to hear our stories and also from other groups - you will endorse a call for Congressional Hearings and eventually the creation of a Family Rights Act.

The folks in my hometown understand my love of family and don't see me as a criminal. In the past I have been able to walk outside the offices of both Senator Schumer and Congressman Walsh in that same building. *It came to my attention from the US Attorney's office that your local staff was actually "asking for prosecution" in this matter. I know you care about family issues and I hope someone can take the time to intervene.*

PLEASE, I would like to again bring to your attention a couple of actions by your staff which I feel are uncalled for.

Beginning in August I have been denied access to the Federal Building because I might resume my quiet walk outside your offices. This action appears to be coordinated between your staff and the US Attorney's office.

When entering the foyer area I have been pushed out of the building by Federal Police officers – but not charged with any offense? Two officers are then assigned to watch me outside the building and block my access to any door ... but I am not charged with any crime?

I find this new strategy very disturbing and a serious indignity to any citizen of our country. I am a former Officer and Pilot in our Air Force and stand amazed at these actions. How could a peaceful parent be pushed away from a Federal Building by armed security staff when trying to petition their Member of Congress?

Last year Federal Police had arrested me on two occasions in the foyer of the building based on 'intent.' At my trial US Magistrate DiBianco found me 'not guilty' for these incidents.

The other action occurred this Spring and involved the Secret Service. My actions in the building have been going on for years. I am always peaceful, and other than “hi,” I don’t speak to anyone unless spoken to.

Other members of the group and I have met with your staff in both your Syracuse and Washington offices. I have a long history of written correspondence to you. During all this time I think we have extended to your staff every courtesy.

I was quite surprised to find a Secret Service Agent wanted to interview me after one of the many arrests that have happened. He told me the request was initiated by your Washington Office – I declined the interview. It seemed totally uncalled for.

Later, a friend who is active in the Family Law Reform effort told me he had called your Syracuse Office and spoken with Ms. Calhoun. Our goal is to get a meeting between the Senator and parents in the group. Ms. Calhoun told him that would be unlikely, especially now that the Secret Service was involved! A self-fulfilling prophecy?

I certainly hope an apology would be forthcoming for this. It certainly appeared that the Secret Service was being used to discredit someone looking for help.

Please understand we are NOT trying to put you on the spot or ask for your feelings in this meeting. We would just ask you and your staff to listen to the experiences of some loving parents. Parents who we feel have been deprived of a great Civil Right – to be an EQUAL parent to their own children.

A meeting with you would help serve as a foundation for meetings with other Members of Congress on this issue.

Sincerely yours,

John Murtari  
315-635-1968, x-211  
[jmurtari@AKidsRight.Org](mailto:jmurtari@AKidsRight.Org)

CC: Kathy Calhoun, Syracuse Regional Rep.

CC: Lona Valmore, Senior Scheduler