

EXCERPTS FROM REMARKS TO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
DSS ATTORNEY/SUPPORT POSITIONS  
JANUARY 2008

I SAW A BOOK AT BARNES AND NOBLE RECENTLY:

“YESTERDAY I CRIED: CELEBRATING THE LESSONS OF LIVING  
AND LOVING.” ONE OF THE CHAPTERS WAS ENTITLED:

“LESSONS LEARNED BY AN ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILD.”  
IT CAUGHT MY EYE.

ONE OF THE LESSONS WAS THAT THE PEOPLE WHO LOVE YOU  
WILL HURT YOU AGAIN.

I WASN'T ABLE TO MOVE FOR A MINUTE, BECAUSE THAT'S  
WHAT WE ARE DOING. WE'RE HURTING THOSE CHILDREN WHO  
NEED OUR PROTECTION.

THAT'S HOW DESPERATE THIS FUNDING REQUEST IS.

CHILDREN ARE HURTING BECAUSE DSS ATTORNEYS DON'T  
HAVE TIME TO DO THEIR JOBS. THEY ARE DEDICATED,  
COMMITTED PROFESSIONALS, AND THEY ARE DOING THE BEST  
THAT THEY CAN.

I'VE SPENT 28 YEARS IN JUVENILE COURT, 16 AS A JUDGE.

I UNDERSTAND THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

I UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WORK: WE CHANGE LIVES: THIS IS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT WORK IN ENTIRE JUDICIAL SYSTEM.

JUVENILE COURT IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO CHART A NEW COURSE IN THE LIVES OF CHILDREN WHO ARE VICTIMS OF TERRIBLE ABUSE AND NEGLECT.

IT'S TIME CONSUMING FOR ALL OF US, BUT ESPECIALLY FOR DSS WORKERS AND ATTORNEYS. THEY MAN THE FRONT LINES.

LET ME SHARE SOME OF MY WORLD WITH YOU FOR A MOMENT. THIS IS GRAPHIC, BUT IT'S MY WORLD, EVERY TIME WE MEET IN JUVENILE COURT. THESE CHILDREN COME TO US FROM THE BACK SEATS OF CARS THEY LIVE IN. THEY COME TO US FROM HOSPITALS WHERE THEIR TINY BODIES ARE ADDICTED TO COCAINE OR HEROIN FROM BIRTH. THEY COME TO US FROM THE KIND OF SQAULOR THAT WE COULD ONLY IMAGINE EXISTS IN THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES. I GET TO SEE THE PICTURES. THEY COME TO US FROM THE HOSPITAL AFTER A CARETAKER HAS THROWN A TINY BABY AGAINST THE WALL REPEATEDLY BECAUSE IT WON'T STOP CRYING. THEY COME

TO US BECAUSE A SIBLING HAS DIED BECAUSE THE  
CARETAKER WAS TOO DRUNK OR DRUGGED UP TO REALIZE  
THE BABY WAS SUFFOCATING. THEY COME TO US FROM THE  
BATHROOM FLOOR OF A MCDONALDS LATE AT NIGHT WHEN  
THE MOTHER AND HER FRIENDS ARE SHOOTING HEROIN WITH  
THE BABY THERE IN THE BATHROOM AND ONE OVERDOSES  
AND DIES.

IS IT IMPORTANT TO PROTECT THESE CHILDREN? IS IT  
IMPORTANT TO CHANGE THEIR LIVES?

THESE CHILDREN DESERVE PERMANENCE WHEN THEIR  
PARENTS FAIL THEM, HURT THEM, AND WE AREN'T GETTING IT  
FOR THEM TOO OFTEN.

THIS IS SERIOUS.

I WISH CHILDREN WEREN'T HURT BY THOSE WHO LOVE THEM.  
BUT THEY ARE, AND I NEED YOUR HELP TO PREVENT THEM  
FROM BEING HURT AGAIN AND AGAIN.

THIS IS AS REAL AS IT GETS FOR YOU. THIS VOTE WILL  
CHANGE THE LIVES OF CHILDREN. I'M SORRY TO BRING THIS  
TO YOU, BUT WELCOME TO MY WORLD.