



TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MATT RINALDI

DISTRICT 115

December 19, 2018

Dear Joe and Sarah,

I want to commend you and sincerely thank you for your work in bringing awareness to the disturbing custodial case involving James, a young boy I had the pleasure of meeting this year.

I have known James's father, Jeff, for several years and was extremely troubled when he updated me on the custody battle concerning his twin boys, where it was alleged Jeff had committed child abuse simply by treating his son as a boy. I contacted the Department of Family and Protective Services, which oversees Child Protective Services, to discuss current agency policies. I also attended a July hearing where I personally witnessed the astonishing testimony of CPS, James' mother and supposed gender disorder experts who recommended James undergo chemical castration at age 8. I reviewed the court order prohibiting Jeff from teaching his foundational Christian beliefs to his son. It is clear CPS, our local public schools, and our local courts either are, at best, unwilling and/or lacking the necessary legal framework to protect children like James, or, at worst, complicit in this form of child abuse. Perhaps even more troubling, this case makes it easy to envision a future case where a court orders the social or chemical transition of a young child against both parents' wishes.

This case deserves the public's full attention so that James and other children in similar situations can be saved from a dark future that will have been forced upon them before they are even old enough to realize the significance of what is happening to them. It is one thing for a legal, 18 year old adult to choose to undergo extreme procedures and therapies, but it is inappropriate for these irreversible actions to befall an innocent and developing child.

It is my sincere hope that the State Legislature will pass legislation to protect children like James from this form of abuse. But until then, I implore everyone to get involved in any way they can. Contact your legislator. Pray for James and his father. Thank you both for your dedicated work in trying to help this precious child. Keep up the fight and please let me know of any ways I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Rinaldi", written over a horizontal line.

Matt Rinaldi