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March 5, 2020

To: Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee
From: National Federation of the Blind of Colorado
Re: S.B. 20-165

Greetings:

On behalf of the largest and oldest organization of the blind of Colorado, I want to advise this Committee that the National Federation of the Blind of Colorado (NFBCO) whole heartedly supports S.B. 20-165 and urges its passage.

For as long as history records, blind and other persons with disabilities have faced discrimination in all aspects regarding their right to parent. Despite the advent of civil rights laws, this discrimination has persisted through current times. That is why the NFBCO worked closely with now Senator Jessie Danielsen to introduce and ultimately pass H.B. 18-1104, the Family Preservation Safeguards for Parents with Disabilities Act. This law is now a model throughout the country on how to protect the rights of parents with disabilities.

It is no stretch to say that H.B. 18-1104 would have never passed without the fierce, determined, creative, and inspired advocacy of Carrie Ann Lucas. Her absolute command of parental rights law combined with her tremendous capacity to negotiate in good faith created the conditions under which we could protect the rights of parents with disabilities by passing H.B. 18-1104 two years ago.

Tragically, we lost Carrie Ann a little over a year ago. We can never put into words the significance of losing her from our community. However, renaming the law to the Carrie Ann Lucas Parental Rights for People with Disabilities Act will be an entirely fitting and powerful way to honor Carrie's memory and the importance of her advocacy. That is why we urge you to adopt S.B. 20-165 and mark for all time the great contributions of this civil rights pioneer and hero.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott C. LaBarre, President
NFB Colorado