

My proposal of legislation to our state government:

Welfare checks for the safety and protection of our children in state poverty are in dire need to help assist and eliminate child abuse. Children in our state are abused daily, whether physically or emotionally. Some parents have been known to take advantage of our state's welfare systems. One example of advantage is maintaining guardianship of a child, or children, to obtain financial and/or food assistance. I would like to explain the link to child abuse and our welfare system.

Physical and emotional child abuse within a child's home can go unnoticed at their schools and other public places. One proposal, I would like to defend, is an annual check-up requirement for parents/guardians of children in poverty to provide to the Human Services and the Children, Youth, and Family Services Department to maintain welfare assistance. This check-up would include the nourishment of the child and a physical and verbal questionnaire given to the child.

One example is a child by the name of Omari who was being abused by his parents and it was verified the parents were using him to maintain welfare assistance (financially and for food assistance). Omari was beaten to death by his mother and step-father. I believe the state should have the right to obtain such a medical examination to ensure any food assistance is actually being provided for a healthy well-being of the child. Also, to ensure the child is living in satisfactory living conditions. Child abuse can be discovered with this type of legislation. Families are required to provide financial proof in order to receive benefits and if no proof is provided, then assistance is delayed. The medical examination can be requirement for the health and well-being of the child as an added measurement to catch child abuse before the harm of child increases. This type of abuse should be detected in all areas possible from any agency involved with the well-being of a child.

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