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I last spoke to the committee in January of 2016. In the interest of saving trees, I ask that you reference the minutes from that days presentation.

This is an update about my son, Marc. Marc has been in placement since October of 2015. In June, 2016, he was transferred to a different facility. Now, a month after placement, they are telling us he will be home before winter. This is both good and bad.

It is good, because he deserves goals.

It is bad, because so many services that he needs are unavailable outside of a facility. And definitely not available in our community. This has turned even more dire with the loss of those services that we were able to obtain last year at this time. Services that were lost during the budget issues this year.

Since he has been in placement, he has been diagnosed with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. This is a diagnosis that falls within the Development Disability system. This will not help him get services.

Let me say that again. This will not help him get services.

Why?

He was not diagnosed before the age of 3.

His IQ is too high.

In the interest of confirming this diagnosis, we travelled with Marc to Grand Forks to see a specialist. He reiterated what Marc needs. He needs long term daily support. He needs a self-contained classroom that our district can't necessarily provide. He needs staff for daily needs.

The doctor said that we need to think beyond the next 3 years. We need to think 5 and 10 years out. If we don't put services in place now, he will very likely end up in prison or worse. Because he simply can not control himself. His thinking is too active, fast and muddled to think beyond the next 2 minutes let alone what consequences apply to an immediate action/reaction situation.

During the last evaluation we learned somethings about our son that we had long suspected but hadn't confirmed.

He has tried to kill animals with his bare hands, either by throwing them at walls, the floor or some other solid oobject or by choking them. For example, dogs and rabbits. He has also used poison.

He has set fires in our home with the intent to burn it down. We had previously blamed this on one of our other kids, but no fires have ever occurred when Marc has been out of the home.

These are the things that he admits to. He also admits that females are beneath him and meant to serve his needs. This may not seem like a huge thing until you look at what he does to harm the females in our family. He targets them for theft of property before he targets me or his brothers. He is quicker to assault them before me or his brothers.

Don't get me wrong, I love my son. I want him to be safe. I want my whole family to be safe. I feel like we are being ignored by facilities because they have to follow some plan that doesn't take either his needs or the needs of the family into consideration.

He has them convinced that he has changed. In reality, it is our belief that he has done exactly what he needs to do so that he can get out and attack the family again. We don't feel that foster care is a good idea for him because then he will target that family. The only option that makes sense to us is facility based care because the staff is never constant and he has restrictions.

I can't recreate the facility in my home. It just isn't possible. I can't recreate all of the services that he needs in my home either.

When he comes home. We will lose any progress that he has made socially. We will lose any progress we have made to reintegrate his brothers back into the home and out of hiding in their rooms. We will rarely see our daughters who are in college because they have refused to come home as long as he is there.

What's more. My bride of 22 years and I are discussing separating. Splitting the family to ensure the safety of the boys and mom. Leaving Marc with me, and hoping for the best.