

Letter to the Editor of the Baltimore Sun, which was published:

Dear Editor,

Your article in Perspective on Sunday, September 7, on children in the welfare system, who are sent back home, only to be murdered by a parent, is horrifying! (Title: Abused, but sent home to die.)

A parent who abuses his/her child forfeits any right to parent the child. The very definition does not fit. Parents are to protect their children from harm; not do them harm. No amount of justification is acceptable in these cases. If the law allows children to be sent back to an abusive parent ... change the law!

If it's really all about money; then more MUST be found. If it costs more for keeping children in foster care, isn't it worth it, if they don't die? The foster care parents must also be carefully monitored.

Tragically, children are often abused by parents and no one finds out. But when a child is taken away from an abusive parent by the state and later returned to die, this is a crime of unbelievable proportions.

Of course children are better off with their biological parents when they are loved and cared for. But not at the cost of abuse or death! Biological parents relinquish their rights to their children when they abuse them. Period. The notion of returning a child to the abusive parent is like forcing a rape victim to live with her rapist, after her wounds are cleaned up and the rapist attends a few classes. It's ludicrous.

This country spends millions, if not billions, on a war effort to ostensibly free people in a land far, far away and who hate and kill us for trying. Yet, we refuse to allocate sufficient funds to ensure the safety of our own innocent children. This is a travesty!

Allocate the money, change the laws and do what is decent and right of such a caring nation. If we err, and we will ... let us err on the side of the children.

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