

Dear Senator Condaras and Representative Kahn,

I am writing in regards to the indispensable advocacy of the COFAR organization in the pursuit of justice on behalf of my developmentally disabled nephew. The COFAR organization spent the last two 21/2 years breaking barriers and stigma ultimately resulting in the convictions of two evil rapists who stalked, raped, abused and harassed my nephew in the community for over two years. The enormous dedication that COFAR showed my entire family, especially my nephew, was larger than life. In January of 2009 we had the first conviction in this case. Buddy Smith was convicted of rape on a developmentally disabled person, assault and battery on a developmentally disabled person and intimidation of a witness. In March of 2009 we finally had a second conviction. Mr. William Senay was convicted of rape on a developmentally disabled person and assault and battery on a developmentally disabled person. Both convicted felons are currently serving ten years in state prison. The enormous and persistent advocacy of COFAR helped pushed the prosecution of two rapists of people with developmental disabilities in Fall River, thus improving the safety and community integration of people with disability in that area. They truly do advocate for people with disability wherever they may live, and should be taken seriously about the residents of the developmental centers. For myself, on behalf of my family we are forever grateful for the humanity and wisdom COFAR has extended to our family throughout this horrific ordeal.

Sincerely,
Lorrie Pierce
Somerset, Mass.