

A Sermon on Contemplating Activism Part Deux
Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for February 14th, 2021 (and beyond)

This sermon is the sequel to the sermon on January 31st, 2021 titled “A Sermon on Contemplating Activism”. My intention with these sermons is to assist activists with being effective if they truly care about the issues they wish to address and addressing them in a meaningful and productive way. I strongly dislike seeing well-meaning people being emotionally manipulated by others resulting in their being taken advantage of in terms of misguided exploitation of precious resources such as time and money. As a survivor of such abuse in various activist communities as well as someone prepared to offer reasonable solutions within the scope of the power invested in every individual citizen of the USA, I offer this sermon. The cause discussed in the examples is the movement to stop institutionalized abuse.

For those who are focused on legislation, you really need to understand the limitations on government authority, particularly how the 4th Amendment, presumption of innocence guaranteed by the 5th and 14th Amendments, and Ex Post Facto in the US Constitution restrict government from regulating anyone, including privately operated businesses or residences on private property, without due process of law. The due process protection guaranteed to all US citizens (individual or corporate) prevents the government from what some refer to as government overreach or unconstitutional violations of the rights guaranteed to US citizens. This means any violations of the law must be properly reported to the correct law enforcement body/regulatory agency. Congress is not a law enforcement body nor regulatory agency and law enforcement falls under the management of the executive branch, not legislative branch of government.

Now, when legal guardians of minors (not yet emancipated by age or court ordered emancipation) violate the due process rights of their minor children through wrongful institutionalization, the minors can press criminal charges and/or file suit. Sources: <https://www.heal-online.org/parentalcrimes.pdf> and <https://www.heal-online.org/provocases.htm> (Taylor v. Provo Canyon School et al specifically). The law says you cannot legally involuntarily place a child in segregated congregate care without a valid court order and doing so amounts to false imprisonment, potentially kidnapping, and more. You have to prove to a court that the minor cannot survive outside of segregated congregate care or poses a serious threat of severe bodily harm to self or others for such a court order. And, failing to do that while still institutionalizing a dependent is actionable at law. So, educating parents and minors regarding the limitations on parental authority and rights of minor dependents at law is how to best address the issue in the private sector. HEAL Mission does this with “The Truth” article available on most pages of the HEAL site including <https://www.heal-online.org/arivaca.htm>. And, we also provide the Emancipation Guide at <https://www.heal-online.org/emancipationprep.pdf> so parents understand how to actually help their dependents prepare for independent living. The regulations and laws are already in place to hold offenders accountable for victims who report properly and/or sue within the statutes of limitation. The due process requirements referenced in the last paragraph (which include the government’s presumption of the innocence of everyone

until judged reasonably suspect (sworn statement by direct witness/victim presented to a court providing probable cause for a warrant), guilty or responsible in a court of law), prevent the level of supposed “oversight” being demanded by some people who ignorantly demand changes to laws they don’t understand in the first place.

So, what changes to the law should be considered viable? Should segregated congregate care providers be required to refuse the involuntary enrollment of anyone without a valid court order? Should parents be expressly required to get a court order? In Washington State, that’s how we addressed the misuse and abuse of Individual Education Plans/Programs funding through special education. You can learn about that at <https://www.heal-online.org/getsmart.htm> and specifically <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/documents/billdocs/2013-14/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Passed%20Legislature/5946-S.PL.pdf>

In New Jersey, wrongful institutionalization of a minor is considered a crime and falls under the statutes on child abuse. Here’s the language of that law:

“Emotional Abuse

Citation: Ann. Stat. § 9:6-8.21

Abused child or abused or neglected child means a child under age 18 years who is in an institution, and:

Has been placed there inappropriately for a continued period of time with the knowledge that the placement has resulted or may continue to result in harm to the child's mental or physical well-being

Who has been willfully isolated from ordinary social contact under circumstances that indicate emotional or social deprivation"

So, clearly making wrongful institutionalization of a child/minor a crime that can be reported to law enforcement for prosecution reinforces the wrongness of doing so which is already actionable at law though more clarified in the New Jersey Statute. And, seeking to have that statute made law in every state may help, but, it won’t be enforced unless the victims report it and press charges because of the 4th, 5th, and 14th Amendments to the US Constitution which governs all other laws of the United States regardless of jurisdiction.

What can the government do about it without requiring victims to report properly to the correct enforcement body within the statutes of limitation? If the government is funding any of it, the government can defund it which is part of the education reform bill in Washington referenced and linked above (5946-S.PL). Otherwise, any violations of laws (including regulations) have to be reported properly to the appropriate enforcement body that enforces those laws and regulations. You can look at expanding or reinforcing the rights of minors who have not been emancipated by age or court order and HEAL Mission attempted to do that via a Citizen Ballot Initiative in 2008 in Washington State

though we did not get enough signatures to get it on the ballot before the deadline. Not enough volunteers to get the signatures needed to have that be a success. But, you can see the language of the ballot initiative at <https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/initiatives/text/i999.pdf> .

Because reporting violations of the law is your role/the victim's role in and an essential part of law enforcement, HEAL Mission is in the process of adding an individualized and tailored reporting guide on all individual program information pages housed on our mission site. An example of that is available at <https://www.heal-online.org/bluesky.htm> (bottom of page) and similar guides are going up on all the individual program info pages to assist victims, survivors, and whistleblowers with reporting effectively and properly to help stop institutionalized abuse by holding offenders accountable.

The way to help prevent it in the first place is through public information campaigns like HEAL Mission's Divest and Boycott Campaign (see <https://www.heal-online.org>) which seeks to inform prospective victims/consumers so they make more informed decisions and avoid fraudulent and abusive programs while also educating them on the limitations at law on their own authority and what penalties may be attached to their choosing to involuntarily enroll a loved one without due process/a court order. And, minors can be proactive and prepare for early emancipation by following the directions provided in the Emancipation Guide at <https://www.heal-online.org/emancipationprep.pdf>.

But, if you've been misinformed that the government is the highest authority and can do whatever they want, you don't know the Constitution which governs the government so everyone who does know it thinks you are stupid, foolish, and either attention seeking or simply wasting precious resources on a fool's errand while emotionally manipulating well-meaning people to give you their time and/or money. And, if you think, "My adult tantrums are getting me what I want so who cares what Angela says because I'm getting the money with my style", #WhatCheneySaid. I'm in this because I genuinely care. I did the work. I do the work. Reporting properly works to shut down offending programs. And, for those who are angry because I won't shut up and tow their party line, the feeling is more mutual than you can imagine. That's not because I'm personally offended either, it's because if you really want to help and aren't doing what is actually helpful while refusing or incapable as a result of actual developmental disability/cognitive impairment to learn how to be helpful, you are infuriating as fuck and can #StayAway from COPE and HEAL Mission. We'll all be better for it. If you are willing to learn and help, we love you and you are always welcome. If you need assistance, we can help but won't do the work for you that you have to actually do yourself as a result of who has standing at law to file proper complaints with the proper authorities for redress of grievances. We tried with a counter-suit to free all those currently enrolled (at the time) at UHS of Provo Canyon/Provo Canyon School based on ample evidence and the judge agreeing it is abusive. But, the judge said we didn't have standing to represent those currently enrolled as a class demanding their immediate release. Provo Canyon School does accept adjudicated youth (placed with a court order) as well as private placements without a court order.

I also understand this is a free country and you have the right to be ignorant, ineffective, and hustle until someone reports you for fraud and abuse properly. It's the same situation with those populating the watch-list which is why we support reporting properly within the statutes of limitation.

I do appreciate all efforts to inform the public about how ineffective and harmful segregated congregate care is, particularly for minors. But, people know minors are a vulnerable population at risk of being exploited and abused in various settings. It seems raising awareness about the available remedies to address those issues is what is needed and HEAL Mission is happy to help. And, if you want to help with consumer advocacy in warning the public against doing business with reportedly fraudulent and abusive programs, the Divest and Boycott Campaign is where it is at and is effective too. Some programs that have closed do credit our public information campaigns at HEAL Mission with their demise, however, I believe it was ultimately their bad practices that resulted in their being divested and boycotted out of existence.

Beyond responding to victims/witnesses properly reporting within the statutes of limitation, advancing/reinforcing youth rights at law, and making sure the government isn't funding fraud and abuse, there's nothing more that can be done through or by the government on this issue. And, youth who are ignorant of their own rights at law may find those rights were violated after the statutes of limitation have expired as a result potentially of their own failures to exercise due diligence to learn what remedies are available now at law to address the violations they suffered. Prevention starts with choosing not to enroll and the exercise of due diligence by the legal guardians or whomever has power of attorney for the individual to be enrolled.

Legally, free speech permits all of us to share our perspectives, opinions, and information with each other and that includes the Divest and Boycott campaign, information campaigns on reportedly offensive entities, and hope people make the best-informed decisions where we can help. But, everyone has rights and I'm sorry if you were raised by people who didn't get, read, understand, nor comprehend the memo while believing the issue is your and/or their ignorance or malignant narcissism and not the rest of society or the government.

Beyond the above solutions to address institutionalized child abuse (including labor trafficking, false imprisonment, etc), additional effective ways to address it include:

1. Establishing and/or funding nonprofit law firms who can and will take a viable civil case to trial for those unable to afford the retainer/legal fees. Settling out of court with a contingency agreement with legal representation often involves nondisclosure agreements, which permits for the offenses to be covered up rather than a part of the public record/history on the offender/offending entity.
2. Don't enroll yourself or loved ones in segregated congregate care, especially without a court order.

And, without the internet or my own wrong turn at Albuquerque or rabbit-hole distractions, my life would be very different and I might be a lawyer right now ready to represent you in court rather than clergy willing to provide a faith-based alternative for public accountability where for any reason the remedies available at law didn't work for you. Enroll your offender now or learn how at <https://www.cope.church/conversion.htm> and <https://www.cope.church/enrollmentagreement.pdf> . We provide support services to victims and consumers at the mission. See <https://www.cope.church/mission.htm> for more info. God bless you!

#TaoFu Extra: What will the other side say to congress if I pursue legislation so I can be prepared to respond effectively in support of progress?

Segregated Congregate Care Industry to be Regulated Says: "Our leading opposition, the HEAL Mission of COPE, estimates that 292 children and youth die in segregated congregate care annually. Source: <https://www.cope.church/healblogarchive.pdf> (page 173) The CDC reports and estimates 16,375 teens die annually of any cause (including occurrences in segregated congregate care). Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/databriefs/db37.htm> So, this means that 1.78% of deaths of youth are occurring in segregated congregate care settings for the terminally ill and/or those who pose a serious threat to themselves or others which is why they are enrolled in segregated congregate care in most cases and 98.22% of the deaths of minors are happening outside of institutional settings. I'm not suggesting all youth be institutionalized for their own safety as I understand that 16,375 total is less than 1% of the total youth demographic. I am stating that I do not see the compelling public interest when looking at the numbers knowing it is possible or even likely that 98.22% or a large portion of that could have been helped. All deaths are tragedies. And, all crimes should be reported while all torts pursued in civil suits. I don't find the numbers here proving a compelling public interest that would override Ex Post Facto in regards to regulating my industry."

For those interested in starting #TaoFu Self-Defense Exercises, please see <https://www.cope.church/taofu.htm> and begin at any time.

There are opportunities to send messages, receive mystery bonus blessings, and more with or without donating available now on our "Pass the Basket" page at <https://www.cope.church/basket.htm> . Thank You.

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32 KJV Willful blindness is an abomination.

COPE accepts Feedback, critical and complimentary. Learn more at <https://www.cope.church/feedback.htm> . For the sake of keeping myself and others humble, a sense of humor is welcome on all sides.

For More About COPE and the HEAL Mission, see:

<https://www.cope.church> and <https://www.heal-online.org>