

FSH Decision Letter 2019 10

Based on my review and on reviewer comments I am not able to accept your submission in its current form. However, with some minor revisions, we think these three poems will make a valuable contribution to the journal. The personal poems are authentic, intense, and righteously angry. The poem about children is a touching aspiration to treat them with greater care and love. The last line of this poem is quite beautiful.

Please see the attached for specific recommendations about editing. In particular, please consider the following:

- 1) Eliminating lines that "tell" the reader how you are feeling; and instead rely on imagery that "shows" us your emotions.
- 2) Overall tightening of language.
- 3) Avoiding capitalizing every line, which is no longer a common poetic convention. Instead, consider capitalizing whenever a new "sentence" begins, whether or not it is at the start of a line.
- 4) Changing the title of "Confined Children." This makes it sound as though they are in jail. Maybe "hospitalized children," or "sick children"?
- 5) I agree with reviewer 2 that the poems make more sense arranged in reverse order. Start with your experience and move to the impact it had on how you view children.
- 6) Reviewer 2 suggests linking the three poems more strongly. Maybe this could be done through the titles: "I am Exposed," "My Bedside Views," "I See Sick Kids Differently" - something along these lines shows both your progression and the way it influences your thinking; and it gives your overall title deeper meaning.

Decision letter 2: I am pleased to inform you that your work has now been accepted for publication in *Families, Systems, and Health*. Thank you for making recommended changes, which clarify and focus the narrative and better link the three poems. As written, these linked verse tell a compelling story of how personal experience with ill health can influence our care of others.