

To: Senate Judiciary Committee and for Hearing (March 6, 2019 Hearing Room C)

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Senator Kim Thatcher, Bill Sponsor/Asst. Chair Senate Judiciary Committee

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Please accept this as my formal comments and Testimony on Senate Bill #318 – Shared

Parenting Bill

I am a father, I live in Salem, Oregon.

In September 2015 I became a father of a little girl. I have co-parented with her mom until last July 2018.

My daughters mom was coming up for a felony trial for physically abusing my older son. My ex was determined to not share our daughter and insure that if she went to prison she would be able to keep me from having access to our daughter.

On November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, my ex pleaded to felony assault of a child under ten. My son was 7 when she physically assaulted him.

July 1<sup>st</sup> 2018, all day my ex texted me telling me she was going to make sure I went to jail so that I could not have access to my daughter. I have hundreds of texts messages from that day. She was threatening me that if I did not come home she would tell the cops I hit her. At 1130 at night I finally caved in and went there. I was there less than 3 minutes and realized it was a trap. I left. I was arrested for assault. I did not hit her.

We have restraining orders against each other at this time. She has physical custody of our daughter. And even though she has a felony for abusing my son she has complete control of our daughter. I have to pay 75 dollars an hour to see my daughter four hours a week.

The judge told my ex that after two weeks she was supposed to start giving me more time and no supervision. The supervisor said there is nothing negative to report. However, my ex is not budging. She wants me out of my daughter's life.

She has completely cut off all of her family from being in our daughter's life.

She has cut me out except the four hours per week. I have a large family. Two sisters, parents, a son, nephews, cousins, grandparents, that live in this area. However, my ex has and is keeping our daughter from being in my life, her extended families' life, and my extended family's life. Our daughter is being

raised by her mom, who admits she has bi-polar and other mental health problems, she is an alcoholic, has a pattern of abusing men and currently living with our daughter with two ex-felons.

Please consider that four hours a week or four days a month is not enough time for my daughter to be in my life. If the courts would give us each equal parenting time our daughter would have a better chance in life.

Please consider passing SB318. My son has not been able to see his sister because of the crime my ex committed against him. So she is bitter and withholding our daughter from my son, from me from both of our extended family and from me my daughters dad.

Kids need both their parents and extended family in their lives.

Andrew Stewart concerned father that is being erased through the family courts and my ex.

Andrew Stewart