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To: The Senate Judiciary Committee  
Oregon Legislature

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I am writing this letter in favor of SB 318 and it is my written testimony regarding the absolute necessity for this bill to become law immediately. The Oregon court system is failing families daily with its outdated default judgements of custody and visitation methods related to when divorces were deemed fault/no fault cases. It continually creates a winner and a loser, increases conflict enormously, and is creating thousands of poverty conditions for single parents by garnishing over 350,000 citizens wages, up to 25% of their take home pay. The 14th Amendment of our constitution grants parents the Right to raise their children without government interference, this is not the case anymore. The Divorce Industry must come to an end.

The 50/50 parenting time law is in the best interest of a child; second ONLY to an intact family. Time spent with each parent is a child's right as well. Currently children are being deprived of one parent and the incidence of children suffering from Parent Alienation Syndrome is a growing psychiatric concern leading to depression, self harm and suicide.

The 50/50 parenting time law will diffuse the conflict between separating parents because time is off limits. The number one, major issue parents fight over is time. Take that away, and then fighting parents only have the terms of their parenting plan to fight over. This will often not even need the courtroom venue, mediators with law background and family counseling skills can assist parents with specific criteria that determines decision making around health, education, faith, and travel.

The 50/50 parenting time law will take the dollar value off the child once and for all. The current system created dead beat fathers AND dead beat mothers. Believe me, both are equal and lethal.

When fathers have their children half the time, get to establish a loving, consistent, meaningful relationships and keep their money to provide for the child in his own home, they too will respond with the full commitment to the child's well being. They will NOT want the child for the sole purpose of avoiding child support.

When mothers have their children half time they have the opportunity to earn a living, establish a loving, consistent, meaningful relationship and keep their money to provide for the child in her own home, they too will respond with the full commitment to the child's well being. They will NOT want the child all the time just to receive a child support check. Currently we have an endemic wave of young women having children with multiple men only to receive a nice fat child support check from each one of them, then they find another woman doing the same thing. They now afford a nice apartment, have their WIC, food stamps, SNAP, HUD, OHP and they move to a school district where breakfast and lunch are free. Not bad! This racket has got to stop, these women get full custody, run the show and will do anything not to let fathers have any time for fear of support dollars being altered. This scenario has happened to two of my sons in Washington County, Oregon.

Currently we have parents who are going to such fraudulent lengths to file restraining orders, stalking orders, and domestic violence reports that are unfounded right before court dates so that it contaminates the judge's decision. This has got to stop. These women are crying wolf and using up resources that are there to help real situations occurring. Under this new law, clear and convincing evidence must be presented not just preponderance of the evidence. No longer will hearsay and false accusations have weight. If there are true conditions where a parent is found unfit then all the current laws that protect a child will still be in effect.

Judges are not using any valid or reliable criteria for deciding how much time is with either parent, judge to judge is unaccountable, county to county is inconsistent, child support calculations are all over the place. The fact that a judge can not even declare joint custody as an option is ridiculous and one has to wonder why? Joint custody and 50/50 time cuts to the chase, no winner, no loser, figure it out outside of court. Our custody implications actually break down the ability to treat parents equally. The police don't even respond to non custodial parents, they are without legal standing in the eyes of the law. Being labeled the non custodial parent is shameful, you feel like a criminal, you are looked upon in the schools, courts, doctor's office, everywhere as the second class parent. This has got to stop. If the 50/50 parenting time law was in place, all of these people would come to know each parent as involved and a part of the child's life and treat both parents with respect.

I have been promoting this bill since 2017. I have been on the work group all this year. I have tried to learn all I can from all sides. I have asked myself, who would not want this bill to pass? I always say, follow the money. The average divorce is around \$30,000. Home evaluation another \$10,000. Court fees, time away from work, add it all up! The wealthy don't fight in court that much, both parents can start over pretty easily, they do fight over custody and time, lucky lawyers, big buck there. The poor are destroyed by divorce, come into court with no legal representation and get eaten alive. Title 4D was interesting to learn about; for every \$1.00 in a child support check that is managed by the state, the feds reimburse the state a \$1.75, so with 350,000 checks a year going through the system, not bad. Plus the state gets a flat \$25 per check. As far as I can see, any judge, lawyer, home evaluator, child protection service agent and child support system employee have a conflict of interest and should have no negative input towards this bill.

I have been a nurse for 40 years, a school teacher K-12, and a chaplain/bioethics practitioner. I have worked in the sea of humanity from many angles, hospice to woman's prison to special ed to 25 years in intensive care. I am a mother of three, grandmother to six. I have suffered Parent Alienation Syndrome for many years (50) and never knew it until I saw it all happen to my son and granddaughter and it brought it all back like it was yesterday for me. I was deemed the non custodial parent in my divorce even though I was the primary caretaker of my three sons, despite the fact the father was an alcoholic. Go figure, I was told I would be the decision maker for health and education! Really! That's Washington County for you. Like I said, no Valid or Reliable criteria is being used in judges decision making. A child's developmental stage/needs does not make any difference; both parents are meeting them (NOT VALID). Just because one parent does it more often does not make them better, they could be in front of the TV all day, (NOT RELIABLE).

Do you know how often a grandmother gets to see her grandchild when they only have eight nights a month with their parent? Almost never. You can't blame the parent for wanting every minute to themselves, yes this Unequal Time System makes it impossible for immediate extended family to have an opportunity to bond.

Homesite evaluators are just another layer of subjective ideology placed on parents. Their criteria is clouded by bias and social expectations. Example: My son is a machinist, farmer, hunter, fisherman, logger, mechanic. He drives a big truck, has animal heads mounted on the wall, made his own back strap jerky and offered it to the evaluator that he hired. Well this young man drove up in a Prius, lived in a condo, has no children, not married, declined the jerky, said he was vegan. My son's house has a huge yard, pool, swings, sandbox, fenced, cousins and grandparents nearby. The mother is living with new boyfriend, already pregnant, above the karate gym business they have, surrounded by parking lots, car dealerships, yes living in a commercially zoned area, no family, no yard, no fence on a busy highway!! My granddaughter is 3! This is why government has got to get out of delegating parenting time, and give kids a chance with both parents, that is the only way they win.

Equal parenting time is a win-win-win. Healthier children, more co-operative parents, improved financial equality. Community acceptance and involvement improved. Less time in the court system, more time with the children.

Parenting Time needs to be OFF THE TABLE from now on. Two people should be able to walk into a courtroom and know that the one thing that can not be taken from them, if they are a fit parent, is their equal time with their children.

Sincerely, Ayla Hofler