

Thank You Senator Chair Prozanski for giving us this opportunity to speak.

My name is Tom Bushman Jr. and I am here with my son, Thomas Bushman the 3<sup>rd</sup> of Jackson County to present his testimony of what happened to him.

In June of 2015, my son and his girlfriend had a child together. Being that my son is a disabled veteran, he stayed at home and was the main caregiver of his infant son for the first 10 months while his girlfriend worked. After this time, his girlfriend ended up getting into another relationship with another guy and left my son. My son tried to get 50/50 joint custody, but his Ex wanted full custody and consequently made up accusations about my son to obtain full custody. Judge Hoppe in Jackson County automatically gave his Ex full custody without any evidence to support her accusations. My son was forced to fight for over a year to get unsupervised visits that his ex requested. My son had to somehow show proof that he was safe to be around his child. DHS would not do supervised visits at their facility as they had no proof warranting the need for supervised visits. The judge honored my son's ex girlfriend's request for supervised visits at a private facility which my son was required to pay \$45.00 dollars an hour for those visits. He could not afford those visits on top of child support. My son was able to later prove that his ex's allegations were untrue and unfounded. My son was finally allowed unsupervised visits with his son about four months before he passed. The mother was able to keep full custody rights that she obtained through false accusations.

November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017 my son's boy was found unresponsive in the care of his new stepdad. His son was flown from Medford, Oregon to Doernbeckers in Portland where he was pronounced brain dead several days later. The saddest part was my son was denied all his fatherly rights at Dornbechers hospital. We finally contacted a family advocate at Dornbechers to get him more time to see his son. My son begged to this advocate to stay by his son's side through the nights while his son was still responding to his voice. His ex would not allow it. She then informed Dornbechers and my son that nobody was to be in her son's room from 9pm to 9am daily except for her and her new husband. She was told that she could make that decision because of having full custody. The step father had more rights than the biological father. My son was a good and loving parent. Unfortunately, his son's brain stopped functioning at 2am on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. My son was not present at his son's last moments of life because his ex would not let him. Father's should not have to fight to see their child in the last moments of their child's life. My son was denied time that he will never get back. No one can make this better for him and the emotional pain and suffering he feels every day of his life is heartbreaking. We would like to see a 50/50 joint custody put in effect for all separating parents and only full custody granted to the other parent if they can undeniably prove the child is in danger when being around the other parent. Thank you for your time and God Bless..