

P.O. BOX 992
WARRENTON, OREGON 97146
Wednesday, March 6, 2019

Oregon State Legislature
Senate Committee On Judiciary
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: SB 318 Creates rebuttable presumption of equal parenting in the best interest of child.

Hello Chairman Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, Members of the Committee:

My name is Brandon T. Williams. I am a resident of the City of Warrenton located on the Pacific Northwest Coast in Clatsop County Oregon. I am a GOD fearing man. I am a successfully self-employed construction contractor and former volunteer fire fighter/ EMS provider. I am a son, a brother, and an uncle, however, my greatest title is father to three boys Meech Alexander Williams, Malachi James Williams, and Judas Bradyn Williams. Unfortunately my boys and myself have experience the cause and effect of fatherlessness and both sibling and parental alienation. When I helped deliver my three sons a unique bond was formed. A bond fairly stating that is rare amongst father and child as I was the first person to touch all three of my children. My purpose driven life is to create a better world for and through my children by being a positive role model and example. As my deceased nephew Trevor Secord would say "Be Better". Better is what we must do for our children.

I stand in support of SB 318 for these simple reasons. First, Children need both parents. Fathers are essential to and fill an integral role in the upbringing of a young child into an adolescents, than into adulthood, and on to become a productive member of society. Fathers ultimately lay a foundation built of morals and values for individual, family, and community success. Secondly, Children are the inheritors of the most fundamental of human rights of which are life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. It is paramount that our children view relationships and the world we live in today with equality, fairness, and discipline. Third, far too many children are statistics and are forced into systemic problems such as;

Increased school dropout rates 71% of all high school dropouts come from fatherless homes this is according to the *National Principals Association Report*. 90% of all homeless and runaway children are from fatherless homes 32 times the average.

Violent crimes 85% of all youths in prison come from fatherless homes this is 20 times the average according to *Fulton Co. Georgia, Texas Dept. of Correction.*

Mental Health 85% of all children who show behavior disorders come from fatherless homes says the *Center for Disease Control.* 63% of youth suicides are from fatherless homes states the *US Dept. Of Health/Census* 5 times the average. Drug use and addiction, domestic violence and abuse are just a few more problems plaguing children of fatherlessness. Finally, we must defeat the war like post facing our children and families today. We must abolish Title IV D funding programs and criminalize the incentive for States and Counties to demolish the traditional family unit. Simply we must STOP fatherlessness and the incentives to create fatherless homes; we must “Be Better” for our children

I am strongly urging ALL representatives to affirm SB 318 and all other bills in its likeness.

Mr. Chairman, Vice Chair Thatcher, Members of the committee I humbly and thankfully appreciate your time and would welcome any questions.

Respectfully,

Brandon T. Williams