

Senators thank you for having us all today my name is seth laizure i am the co founder and president of The Parental Equality network but most importantly im a custodial parent, a non custodial parent, and a step parent I am for SB318

Nationally, in 2017, more than 20 states considered laws to FINALLY require shared parenting. That is when i began this journey

It was Martin Luther King who said, "We begin to die the day we begin to be silent on issues that matter." this truly matters. Divorce and separation in this country almost always means that children lose sufficient contact with at least one of their parents and one side of their entire family.

Once a judge has determined that both parents are good and fit, the BEST interests of EVERY CHILD would be that courts enforce an even-bonding opportunity with BOTH parents and families over the entire 18 years of child development. Thus, the best interest of every child, in general, is to have equal, or nearly equal time with both parents, especially during dramatic shifts in the family dynamic.

This bill would create a rebuttable presumption that equal parenting time is in the best interests of ALL children at the beginning of every divorce or separation. If enacted, SB 318 would provide 50/50 parenting time as a STARTING POINT, not necessarily an end point in every case. This bill will protect good parents not help abusive parents.

The vested interests who endlessly oppose a child's constitutional right to bond equally with both parents often defend the indefensible by cavalierly stating, "Divorce is complicated." Equality has ALWAYS been complicated, but in this country, we eventually embrace those complications, realizing that the worst source of complication is perpetual inequality. Within the next few decades, today's family court outcomes of the winner-take-all" custody model, which maximizes conflict and reduces children to pawns will be viewed as being archaic

ALL children spell love T-I-M-E, so let's make equal parenting time a REAL possibility in Oregon. I ask all the committee members to truly listen to the citizens of this state the mothers and fathers that have been affected by the courts and not the judges or attorneys that are trying to protect their paycheck. Lawyers are not arguing whats in the best interest for the child just whats in the best interest of there paying clients. 85% of custoday and divorce cases may be settled by a stipulated agreement but more often then not one party is being told if you dont agree you might receive less time from the judge at trial. Which means parents are forced to pick the lesser of two evils. Again please listen to the people of our beautiful state.

Thank you, Seth Laizure