



CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
MULTNOMAH COUNTY COURTHOUSE
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MAUREEN McKNIGHT
JUDGE

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TESTIMONY REGARDING SB 356 — NOTICE & COMMENT for NON-CUSTODIAL PARENTS

Before the House Judiciary Committee of the Oregon Legislature
May 9, 2019

Submitted by:

Maureen McKnight, Circuit Court Judge
Multnomah County

Chair Williamson, Vice-Chairs Gorsek and Sprenger, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Maureen McKnight and I am a Circuit Court Judge in Multnomah County. I have served in the Family Law Department there the last 17 years after practicing family law exclusively as an attorney for 22 years. I am the immediate past Chief Judge of that department and speak today for myself and those 13 colleagues rather than the Oregon Judicial Department.

We support SB 356.

The bill authorizes a judge to require a parent with custody to notify the other parent of specific child-related matters and to provide an opportunity for comment. In my experience, most judges believe they have the authority to require these terms already so clarifying that authority will confirm the majority practice and assure judges who are uncertain about their power. Moreover, it is sound, child-focused policy: requiring notice and input for certain decision-making by the custodial parent is an appropriate method of encouraging co-parenting without limiting the role of the custodial parent.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maureen McKnight".

MAUREEN McKNIGHT, Circuit Court Judge

cc: Members of the House Judiciary Committee
Nancy Cozine and Phil Lemman, State Court Administrator's Office
Addie Smith, Senate Judiciary Counsel