

May 9, 2019

Senate Bill 385 – Testimony
Joseph Cowles – Lane County

My name is Joseph Cowles and I am in favor of SB 385.

As a result of current Oregon family law, I had been marginalized as a non-custodial parent, legally disenfranchised from my son, and I received less than 50/50 parenting time.

Currently, I have 50% of the parenting time with my child, but there was a cost. The greatest cost was the time I lost with my son during a very critical time in his development. It took more than ten years of advocating for parental equality through the courts and tens of thousands of dollars (intended for his college education) in legal fees to achieve our halftime schedule.

There needs to be an alternative solution than parents losing everything they have in hopes of receiving more time with their child. A voluntary alternative dispute resolution conference procedure for custody and parenting time modification and enforcement is a prospective solution, given that both parties will agree to the conference.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and support for SB 385.

Joseph Cowles