

My name is Michelle Pelletier and I wholeheartedly oppose bill HB2948. This bill would further put survivors of domestic violence in harm's way and further force co-parenting with their abuser. The Oregon Court's largely fail in this area as it is. By allowing joint custody this bill would only cause more duress to both the parents and the child(ren). This bill seems to aim to force parents who already do not agree on custody to be forced to joint decision making, this is a dangerous bill. As it is, it is extremely difficult to have joint custody changed to sole custody or to protect children who have been abused by a parent. This bill would only make that change all the more difficult.

Even with sole legal custody, shared parenting time is a nightmare with an abuser. The courts are already struggling to make that connection and several Judges in Oregon are resistant to Domestic Violence training as it is.

Our family has been caught in this nightmare that is called Oregon "family" court for 14 years and it never seems to end. If you have any questions or comments, I am happy to speak about our experiences. Please oppose this bill.