

Oregon is one of the most dangerous places in America for women. A ten year study by the Women's Foundation of Oregon found that over one MILLION Oregon women and girls have been victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. That is double the national average. This cannot be ignored. Oregon is now the second most dangerous state for women.

We also know from many studies by legal institutions and universities that 90% of divorces can be handled outside of court. We also know that of that 10% that do appear in court, 90% of those so called "high conflict" cases are actually domestic violence cases. 9 out of 10 times judges are making rulings on domestic violence cases, yet they are ignoring children and disregarding and humiliating men and women when they come forward with allegations of abuse.

We know that the Family Court System is being used by abusers and those with narcissistic tendencies to perpetuate abuse. We also know the statistics that abusers are twice as likely to sue for custody. We know that approximately 58,000 children are taken from safe parents every year and given to their abusers. We know that in Oregon, safe parents are being killed, and so are their children.

50/50 custody will perpetuate conflict, encourage more allegations of abuse and keep those who are actually being abused in abusive situations.

50/50 custody rulings by lazy judges who do not actually consider the child's best interest are resulting in casualties and perpetuation of violence and abuse by the next generation.

SB318 contradicts all the other legislative bills' terms of "best interest" for a child in court related proceedings. Courts need to look at every child's individual needs and recognizing that these needs and families are unique and that they will change as the child ages.

I can guarantee you that the needs for a nursing infant are different from those of a 17-year-old young man or woman.

**We need to start listening to the children and their therapists if we are going to determine their "best interest" instead of listening to parents who want to turn divorce into a competition where everyone should get a trophy and no one losses or has to pay child support.**

This is what is really happening in courts:

<http://www.domesticviolenceabuseandchildcustody.com/Talkingpoints.pdf>

<https://securitybaron.com/blog/most-dangerous-states-for-womens-sexual-safety/>

The Women's Coalition, 2017, Estranged Wife Murdered Xmas Night; Baby Survives. Ex-Wife's motion for Sole Custody to Protect 5 Year-Old Denied in

Oregon. <https://www.facebook.com/TheWomensCoalition/posts/1846588232282161:0>

The Women's Foundation of Oregon, Count Her In Report, <https://womensfoundationoforegon.org/count-her-in> 2016.