

Dear Senator Beyer,

I am sending you this letter as a constituent of your district to show my support for Senate Bill 318. This bill creates a rebuttable presumption that equal parenting time is in best interests of child, and is long overdue in family law here in Oregon. The children of our state deserve better than what they have been afforded in the past, and this bill is a step in the right direction to provide for equality in parental influence when both parents are shown to be fit and capable after separation.

Our current laws force local courts to decide on a primary custodial parent in the event the two parents cannot agree to a parenting plan, relegating the decided non-custodial parent to often severe limitations on parenting time, simply because the other party would not agree. So, when a parent wishes to maintain their equitable role in raising their children, under current laws, they often lose access and the rights of a parent simply for requesting that equality. This bill is important; because it presumes that equitable parenting time with both parents is in the best interest of our children, a statement that is backed up, and continues to garner support by peer reviewed studies, psychologists and social workers across the United States.

Our children are counting on you to do the right thing this legislative session, and I am asking for your support in passing Senate Bill 318. I would like to extend an invitation to discuss the importance of this legislation in a format that is convenient for you, including an in-person meeting, telephonic conference, or simply reply to this email to let me know that as my representative, you will support this important step toward parental equality in Oregon.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I look forward to your support in the upcoming 2019 legislative session.

Your Constituent,

Kristen Gleason