

SB 318 – Senate Bill 318

Sponsored by Senator Thatcher – Senator Manning Jr.

Creates rebuttable presumption that equal parenting time is in the best interests of child. Requires rebuttal of presumption by clear and convincing evidence.

As a mother and grandmother, I request that the proposed changes to SBO 318 be stopped.

One of my daughters is currently in a Parenting Plan crisis. It has been 3 ½ years of court proceedings costing over \$30,000.00 with no end in sight. I speak from the experience of the “minority”. It is understood by attorneys and Judges that a large percentage of divorced parents devise a Parenting Plan, which when submitted to the Court, is found to be in the best interests of the children.

A small percentage, (like my daughter’s case) are found to be high conflict cases which require the court to order a Parenting Plan.

Oregon Law presently is written in the “best interest of the child” by advocating “equal” parenting time as referenced in SECTION 1. ORS 107.101 (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5). Let there be no mistake - Shared Parenting ,although not specifically referenced as such, is outlined in detail in the current Statutes.

Shared parenting means that two parents share parenting rights, responsibilities and time with their kids in some proportion Shared parenting time can be anything from **25 – 50%** of the time. **Equal Parenting time IS NOT the Same as Shared Parenting.**

Father’s Rights Movements across the nation are actively promoting and determined to achieve “equal” Parenting to protect their rights. Their FaceBook pages daily posts vile and dehumanizing posts undermining the mothers’ of their children while claiming to be the “victim” of being denied parenting rights. Under the current Law their rights are protected – gender IS NOT a factor when determining the shared parenting of the children.

Each family situation is unique and at present, the current Law encourages parents to create a Plan that is best not only for the child (or children) but also for the specific needs of both parents. (Holiday Schedules, Vacations, etc.)

Amicable divorcing parents do not need this order. I, personally have been married for 36 years and with 3 children, I can assure you my husband and my parenting time was SHARED! (If I ever said it was equal – it was like saying he wasn’t picking up the slack) Nothing, not even our marriage, was EQUAL! However, we did co-parent and have shared time with our children. As a result, we are the proud parents of 3 grown women who now hold leadership positions in their career and are raising children of their own. I know about divorce and parental plans – My first marriage ended in divorce and together we co-parented our daughter!

Unfortunately, there are those divorcing parents that are unable “for a variety of reasons” to collaboratively work out a parenting plan. The Law currently encourages these parents to work with either their respective attorneys or through mediation to achieve a plan for the best interest of their children. In my daughter’s case, a Temporary Order is currently in place until a permanent Parenting

Plan can be decided. This Amendment does nothing to increase the chances of resolution but rather pours fire on an already volatile situation.

This Bill's amendment will increase litigation costs, choke an already court calendar as well as keep "children" in limbo from experiencing their parents how they want to – have two parents that love them and care about them so they can live their life experiencing both parents.

This proposed amendment is redundant in that the current law already provides for several examples of Parental Plans that can be and usually are, adopted and revised to the individual family that are in the best interest of the children.

Don't be fooled into thinking that the current laws are not structured for the best interest of the children. I ask, is the proposed changes designed to reduce child support? Is the proposed changes to the law beneficial for the Father's Rights Movement? If so, I ask, Is this in the best interest of the children? Or, a deceptive ploy to manipulate the system?

I respectfully request this Proposed Bill SB 3018 be declined.

Submitted – Donna M. Schmid – Grants Pass, Oregon