

March 8, 2019

RE: SB 318

Dear Senate Committee:

My name is Tina Young, a mother, step mother and grandmother. I fully support SB 318 and here's why.

My husband and I are grandparents to a beautiful 2 1/2 year old grandchild, Lyrric Sophia Young. Her parents, our son and Lyrric's mother, were in a relationship that resulted in an unforeseen yet once known, very welcomed pregnancy. Our son committed himself from day one to being the best father he could be, attending appointments, encouraging the best for mom to be and being present at what turned out to be a premature birth. At that premature birth, both families were present, including me. Due to complications of that premature birth, our granddaughter had life threatening issues that required ongoing hospitalization. For two weeks post birth, BOTH mother and our son stayed with the baby at the hospital day and night. BOTH parents cared, fed, bathed and embraced the fragile premature baby. When our granddaughter was released, BOTH parents had to pass car seat tests and be informed of other information relating to the care of the baby. The baby and parents took the baby home to their home and began the new parenting adventure. Father, as was mother, was interactive with the daily care of Lyrric.

Two months later, Lyrric's mother left our son and went to live with her parents 20 minutes away. Our son IMMEDIATELY wanted to one, ensure that his daughter had all she needed and two, miss his daughter instantly, wanted to open the dialogue for time with his baby girl. He was immediately met with controlling guidelines from the mother and her parents. When he would not agree to give up legal rights, what mom wanted, he was "allowed" three two hour visits per week all while under strict supervision (all three would sit across the room carefully keeping six eyes on our son at all times, even videotaping each visit). Our son was denied his request to simply walk the baby in the other room to have bonding and alone time with her. He was denied everything he wanted to bond with their daughter.

It took court intervention to get unsupervised visits moving forward although that only happened after 15 parenting classes (only for dad, not for mom, a first time parent herself). Please keep in mind that father had, nor has, no history of abuse, instability or any other reason that would stop anyone from seeing his daughter. But mom made "accusations", ultimately found untrue, but in doing so without a preponderance of innocence on our son's part, was successful in keeping the daddy/daughter time to six hours per week for months. Mom fought every step of the way and ultimately, after the child reached a year old, our son was finally given a four hour visit in addition to his other two hour visits. So for a stable, working (paying support regularly), capable father, his limits under the law as it stands today was that of approximately 25 hours PER MONTH. Mother even went so far as to take him off of the child's medical records, did not tell him about appointments and ultimately causing our son to have to argue with doctor/dentist offices to prove he was his daughter's father and that he should have rights to review her records. We learned real quickly the term PARENTAL ALIENATION which we believe the system has allowed mom to get away with under the current legal status. The grandparents, aunts and

uncles on the paternal side have also been denied ANY access to the loved child unless the child is with our son, which is still minimal.

Our son continues to follow court orders, only sees his daughter minimally although the court has given what He called a "path" to more time. This path entails our son not having a full weekend visit until his daughter is three years old. This makes no sense!

This situation has taken a toll on our family, we've watched our son fight, with only small progress, for rights to his beloved daughter Lyrric. When a loving parent, mom or dad, has to fight that hard just to see his child, with no evidence of wrong doing, SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH THE SYSTEM.

My son will continue to fight, never giving up. But the one sided, mom knows best rule of thumb that we have personally seen in the system, is heartbreaking to those who are on the fighting side of it. It is never in the best interest of a child to be so substantially limited to either parent for no valid reason. Parent's being apart is hard enough on a child but why is one parent systematically presumed more important than the other? SB 318 will help the majority of parents in a split parent situation, giving them the presumption of being a good a capable parent unless legally proven otherwise. In our son's case, if SB 318 had been the law, it likely would have changed the outcome of his situation for the positive which gives our granddaughter a positive outcome most importantly. Research shows that both parents are important and I am grateful, and feel it is about time, that a law like SB 318 could be put in place.

I fully understand there are undesirable parents out there but I am doubtful they are the majority and the courts can put checks and balances in place to ensure bad parents don't get time to abuse helpless children. We are witnessing abuse of parental alienation in countless cases and enabling those alienators to use the system for their unhealthy and controlling causes, all of which are not in the best interest of any child.

I respectfully request that you support SB 318 for the sake of all children who have TWO parents who want to be fully involved in their lives. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tina Young

Klamath County, Oregon