

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my written testimony Senate Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee.

My name is Robert James Crawford and I live in Sweet Home Oregon.

I am coming to you in support of Senate Bill 318.

My story is a bit complicated due to the fact it involves two states and the jurisdictions from both states.

I was always apart of my children's lives from the moment they were born and being the first to hold them. I made sure they were fed, clothed, happy and loved.

In December of 2012, all that ended because of false allegations of Domestic Violence. I will spare the details but I was found not guilty in the ensuing trial seven months later. If you have questions please feel free to ask as I have nothing to hide.

As of that fateful night more than six years ago, I was denied seeing my children; even after being found not guilty of Domestic Violence.

I have spent over \$7000 and many hundreds of hours learning the law, defending myself and trying to see my children over this time.

The last time I saw them, they were with me in Washington County at my mother's home.

My children's mother and grandmother came to Oregon from Wyoming in the middle of the night and called the children the next morning. She had them come outside and "legally" kidnapped them and took them back to Wyoming. There were no indications from my children's mother to warrant concern for their health, safety, and wellbeing and I had no reason to believe she would do what she did.

There was no custody order in place at the time. I called the police because I was in distress and had no idea where my children were. Any parent placed in my situation would be feeling the same emotions and call for help like I did. Four police agencies and the Amber Alert Task Force were called in and began looking for them. It was determined that their

mother had taken them. Because there was not a custody order, there was nothing further the agencies could do.

During the years that followed, my son was admitted to a mental health facility no less than four times. The longest stay being 89 days in the summer of 2017 when he was 12 years old. He experienced suicidal tendencies and anger issues which prompted his admittance. This was not my son before he was kidnapped.

Included for your review is a video featuring my son on Fox 12 news for a holiday to created called Colors day "<https://www.facebook.com/Color-Day-April-8th-369440730177/>

### [Color Day April 8th - Home | Facebook](#)

Hunter is doing so well in Speech and Debate that he placed as alternate to nationals. This means if the main pickn can go he is. So excited for him.

[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

" that he came up with after being told he would need a second back surgery. He and his sister Piper are very loving children, so this was a very big surprise to me and everyone that knew him that he would have anger issues and be suicidal.

After reading over 2200 pages of medical information, it would seem that he was having issues with me not being in his life. Couple it with lies that his mother and grandmother told him had him very confused and he reacted the only way that seemed like a way to stop the confusion. This is a common behavioral reaction for children to do when placed in an environment that is mentally unhealthy.

As of today I have not seen my children in 1714 days.

I believe that if there was bill like Senate Bill 318 in place at the time of my separation and divorce that my son would not have had the issues he has.

Every study that I have researched over the last six years that are no more than 25 years old all have said the same thing about children and divorce. That "the best interest of a child is to have equal access to both parents after divorce".

I pray that the Senate Committee votes to pass this bill and let children have both parents in their lives equally because it truly is in the children's best interests.

Thank you Senator Prozanski and Members of the Committee for your time and allowing me the opportunity to share my story and why I am in favor of the passing of Senate Bill 318.

Respectfully yours,

Robert James Crawford