

I am writing today to Oppose HB2948.

While "shared" and "joint" parenting are attractive terms and "sound fair", this HB has failed to take into account the voices of domestic violence and sexual assault survivors who have a heavy responsibility of protecting their children and to establish "safe parenting".

Please take into consideration this very important research from The Civic Research Institute about what divorce is really like:
•"Over 95% of cases eventually settle more or less amicably..."

•"The real problem are the less than 5% of the cases that cannot be settled and will require a trial and often much more..."

•90% of these cases are actually domestic violence cases that can't be settled because it reflects an abusive father's tactic of using the children as a way to get access to his victim or punish her for leaving."

In summary, during a divorce most parents will come to parenting agreements without the courts assistance. This HB is specific for those who cannot agree, which statistically will be the majority that will suffer if this bill passes.

Victims of abuse are already at a disadvantage in family court in many ways (economically, mentally, socially) while abusers can pay for a dream team. This bill would make it infinitely harder to keep kids safe in the majority of cases.

Reference:

Zorza, Fields and Goldstein (2010) Talking Points For Judges and other Court professionals RE: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, ABUSE and CHILD CUSTODY, Battered Women, Battered Children, Custody Abuse. Retrieved:
<https://ncmbts.blogspot.com/2010/07/talking-points-for-judges-and-other.html>