

Chair Power, Vice-Chair Wallan, and members of the subcommittee.

My name is Janelle Bynum and I represent House District 51, which includes East Portland, Damascus, Gresham, Boring, North Clackamas, and Happy Valley. I am here to testify in support of HB 2948 and the -1 amendment.

HB 2948 is focused on determining what is in the best interests of the child, rather than whose parental interest should be overriding.

As my constituent Kayce Rasch will tell you, the circumstances that led to the creation of this bill were an injustice against her parental rights and her love for her daughter. Family law judges have tough decisions to make on a daily basis. In Kayce's case, the decision to side with her ex in the custody dispute caused negative effects upon both Kayce and her daughter's life that are still being felt to this day.

We are seeking to ensure justice to the non-custodial parent and changes should be considered from time to time. I recognize that there has been a lot of work through committees and overtime on the issues. Many judges and attorneys and advocates have spent countless hours mulling the issue.

I stand with Kayce in her quest for fairness and urge you to support HB 2948 to support keeping children at the center of the discussion.