

Submitter: Ashley Lawson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB385

I am in support of increasing the penalty for false claims of abuse. 4 years ago I went through a high conflict divorce. We had been married for 15 years and had two children together. My ex cut us off financially and threatened to make my life hell if I got a lawyer and fought for custody of our children. I got a lawyer, the rest is what nightmares are made of. Thankfully we were blessed with a good lawyer and a good judge who saw straight through him. However it didn't make him stop allegations of abuse that he filed with DHS and even the multiple attempts of immediate danger orders that he filed against me. Nothing was ever founded but the fact that we had to continually be subject to hearings during my work days, phone calls and interviews with dhs was heart wrenching. There is nothing I wouldn't do for my children. To fathom that someone would falsely accuse me of child abuse was something that broke me. I was lucky but I know there are other parents who are not so lucky. These people think they can make false claims because there are no consequences for them. Something needs to change.