

Lori A. Bonnevier, LCSW, LLC

7150 SW Hampton St. #240
Portland, Oregon 97223
www.childfocused.net
lbonnevier@childfocused.net



February 24, 2025

House Committee on Judiciary
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Opposition to HB 3095

Dear Chair Kropf and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Lori Bonnevier and I am a licensed clinical social worker in the state of Oregon with a private practice of the last 25 years. My professional focus is providing mediation, evaluation, individual and family counseling, parent coaching, and family law consultation. I am qualified as an expert witness in the tri-county area, Marion, Yamhill, Linn/Benton, Jackson, Columbia, Lincoln, and Clatsop counties.

Prior to private practice I was employed by the State of Oregon as a caseworker for DHS and prior to that, a classroom teacher. The extent of my professional career has been working to strengthen family systems, educate, and ensure that children are happy, safe, and healthy.

In 2021 I authored the bestselling book: You Don't Have to Crush Your Ex; Hints, Hacks, and Hell-No's to "Win" Your Custody Evaluation. A book that describes the complexity of family law litigation and how best to navigate through a system that is tasked with considering a multitude of family dynamics while holding a child's best interest, *paramount*.

A child's best interest varies greatly, depending on myriad individual factors and those within the family system itself. A child's best interest cannot simply be presumed, utilizing a one size fits all declaration as the rebuttable presumption of HB 3095 proposes.

As a life-long advocate for children I sternly oppose HB 3095 as it wholly overlooks intimate partner violence that is coercive in nature, child abuse that takes time and safety to disclose, functional substance dependence that is not evident at first glance, personality disorders that perpetuate conflict known to harm children, and the more obvious age and development of each child. Research does not support an infant or young toddler benefiting from a 50-50 schedule. However, there are volumes of research to demonstrate that disruptions to an infant or young toddler from that child's primary caregiver is detrimental.

In families where there are two fit and proper parents, a 50-50 parenting time plan often works best. Starting with that presumption, however, places the children of Oregon at considerable risk and appears to be parent-focused, not child-focused legislation.