

Submitter: Brooks Doherty
On Behalf Of:
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Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3095

I am a father of three precious daughters. I was married for fifteen years, and for all of those years I played a daily and extremely involved role in the lives of my children. I played with them, read to them, and put them to bed most nights. Their mom and I played an equal role in parenting them and we both had very close relationships with our children. When our marriage came to an end, I asked for 50/50 parenting time, since we both had been equally involved in their lives. When she refused, I tried to compromise and accept three nights a week. I wanted to solve it in mediation and come to a compromise. But my offer of three nights a week was not accepted. As a result, we collectively have spent over \$50,000 in court battling over this. Two parents who love their kids spending money that could have been spent on a college fund being spent on lawyers needlessly. And why did we have to spend this money? Because this bill has not been passed. Because there is no presumption of equal parenting time. If the law of Oregon, like many other states, was a presumption of equal parenting time, none of this would have been necessary. We could have spent that money on the future of our children. I would like whoever is reading this to consider who is pushing back against this bill: Lawyers. Is there a better example of transparent greed at the expense of common people? Our state prides itself on taking up the cause of the common working person and protecting them from the greed of the elite millionaires and billionaires. So what would be more in line with the values of our state? Siding with the 1 percent, with the lawyers who profit off of the suffering of divorcing families? Or making life easier and more affordable for those who are undergoing the hardest periods in their lives? If parents can stop fighting over parenting time, which is arguably what most family law is about, then imagine how free they would be to invest in their children and pay for counseling that they need to help them recover from a divorce. Imagine the relief parents would feel, no longer having to fight over this issue. They could focus on their children. Four years and fifty thousand dollars later, I now have my children three nights a week. Still less than equal. And it never should have cost me that much to have that much time with my children.