

February 27, 2025

TO: Oregon House Judiciary Committee

FROM: National Safe Parents Organization

## RE: House Bill 3095 - Oppose

Esteemed Chair and Committee Members,

As a founding member of the <u>National Safe Parents Organization</u>, and the founder of <u>Connecticut Protective Moms</u> I am writing to ask you to oppose HB 3095.

Please take the time educate yourself on the issues how Domestic abuse victims are put at further risk by 50-50 shared parenting bills. Read the recent research (linked below) and review reports by credible judicial organizations, including the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) and domestic abuse academic experts, on how these shared parenting bills are largely a legislative tactic to only serve an abusive or unfit parent in a "high conflict" custody case. These 50-50 bills do not protect the genuine "best interest of the child."

A one-size-fits-all focus on co-parenting is not appropriate for these cases where family violence, including coercive control or child abuse, is present. A differentiated assessment and intervention strategy is required for parenting plans in the context of domestic violence.

Most parents when getting divorced do not need a court to order to figure out how to share their own parenting time post family dissolution. Many of the contested custody cases that end up in front of a judge with contentious issues in a custody battle, are hallmark red flag cases for when there is abuse present and a victim is trying to leave an abusive parent. Though either parent can be abusive, this is a public health issue that mostly impacts women and children. Abuse survivors look to the courts for protection and assistance in keeping children safe.

Unfortunately, HB 3095 would result in child victims preventably being court ordered into the care and custody of an abusive parent when the presumption could not be overcome. This may sound like it is a rare occurrence...it is not! Australia instituted a shared parenting presumption law similar to the one proposed here for their entire country and it created decades of suffering for abuse victims – so much so that they had to rescind the law.

Please read the following links and educate yourself before you Vote on HB 3095.

Thank you,

Betsy Keller National Safe Parents Organization admin@connecticutprotetivemoms.org media@nationalprotectiveparents.org

## Links

https://www.ncjfcj.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/33017-Parenting-Plans-after-Family-Court-Findings-of-Domestic-Violence-FINAL.pdf

https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/may/18/child-custody-laws-domestic-violence-homicide-rising

https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/302141.pdf

https://www.wisbar.org/NewsPublications/WisconsinLawyer/pages/ Article.aspx?Volume=91&Issue=11&ArticleID=26737