

Submitter: Sara Rich
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1130
Sara Rich, MSW, LCSW

March 10, 2025

Oregon Senate Judiciary Committee

Subject: Strong Opposition to Senate Bill 1130

Dear Members of the Oregon Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 1130, which poses a serious threat to the stability and well-being of two-home families. This bill undermines the judiciary's critical role in supporting families struggling with multifaceted issues involving their children and creates an environment where parenting plans could be weaponized to the detriment of children and families.

By stripping judicial authority and flexibility, SB 1130 removes the court's ability to adapt parenting plans to address the unique and often complex needs of families. This rigidity can exacerbate conflicts, reduce access to necessary mental health and therapeutic resources, and leave families with fewer options to resolve challenges collaboratively.

One of the most concerning aspects of this bill is how it could be exploited to create further division between parents. Instead of promoting a cooperative and supportive approach, the legislation could embolden one parent to use the parenting plan as a

tool of control, potentially disregarding the best interests of the child.

The judiciary plays a vital role in providing a balanced and nuanced perspective that takes into account the well-being of children and the specific circumstances of each family. By taking away this discretion, SB 1130 risks imposing a one-size-fits-all approach that fails to support families dealing with mental health issues, educational needs, or complex family dynamics.

I urge you to reject Senate Bill 1130 and advocate instead for policies that empower the judiciary to make thoughtful, individualized decisions. Families in crisis need flexibility, support, and resources—not rigid mandates that could cause further harm.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. I trust you will consider the potential negative impacts of this bill and prioritize the well-being of children and families.

Sincerely,

Sara Rich, MSW, LCSW