

Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I wanted to make sure that you are aware Senator West amended the language in SB17, the companion bill which he sponsored, to remove all mention of Parental Alienation. I hope and expect you to do the same prior to the bill moving forward with a referral to the Committee. Just in case you were unaware, I wanted to explain why it is so important that you also remove Section 11 of HB561.

I am very confused and concerned about the inclusion of 9-101.3(B)(11) in the bill. I am asking you to please **strike down this particular language and section** of the bill. I submitted written testimony and provided oral testimony when HB1036 (virtually the same Bill) did not make its way out of committee last year and was devastated to see another effort to enact it, retaining the following language verbatim from HB1036:

(11) PARENTAL ALIENATION, INCLUDING:

(I) THE ORIGINS OF PARENTAL ALIENATION;
(II) THE INVALIDITY OF PARENTAL ALIENATION AS A SYNDROME; AND
(III) THE INAPPROPRIATENESS OF THE USE OF PARENTAL ALIENATION IN CHILD CUSTODY CASES;

I whole-heartedly agree that judges should receive training for child abuse and domestic violence in child custody cases. However, as a victim of Parental Alienation, with a teenage son who is the victim of Child Alienation, I am adamantly opposed to the above section of the bill.

By including the above section, it actually serves the opposite purpose of the bill's intention - by endorsing a form of child abuse. The simple fact is that Parental Alienation is psychological child abuse. It is typically perpetrated by parents with personality disorders, usually Narcissistic Personality Disorder or Borderline Personality Disorder.

Courts are already minimizing the existence and effects of Parental Alienation. HB561 allows that practice not only to continue, but condones it. I firmly believe Parental Alienation Syndrome is both real and valid. Even more strongly, I know that the use of Parental Alienation in custody cases is not only appropriate, but necessary. Yet, this bill would state the exact opposite - that the use of Parental Alienation in child custody cases is inappropriate.

I have plenty more to say about this subject. I have my personal nightmare that I have been living for the past 6 1/2 years without my son. I can never properly explain the heartbreak it has inflicted on my family and me. I can tell you, however, that a piece of me is missing and won't ever return unless and until my son does one day.

Again, I ask that strike down Section 9-101.3(B)(11) in HB561. I truly appreciate your consideration. I also would appreciate your response to my concerns. I am hopeful to hear back from you very soon.

Sincerely,

Michael Fiol