

My name is Robert Garza. I am here today with lived experience. I have personally faced interference with child custody multiple times. At one point, I saved up 15 to 20 violations before filing because I could not afford \$3,000 to \$5,000 for an attorney retainer every time I lost a weekend with my children.

When I finally filed the first enforcement, the court found my ex in violation and awarded attorney's fees and make-up time. But the second time, it took six months just to get into court and another six months for a ruling. Attorney's fees were not awarded, and even the missed days were calculated incorrectly.

This bill fixes a real-world problem. It gives parents a practical way to enforce existing court orders without spending thousands of dollars every time the order is ignored. It also creates accountability through a clearer enforcement path.

Protective domestic violence groups should support this bill because it allows multiple opportunities for a protective parent to seek a protective order that overrides custody when safety is an issue. At the same time, it protects children from repeated interference when there is no safety concern.

Most parents have already spent tens of thousands, sometimes hundreds of thousands, to obtain a custody order. That order should mean something.

When court orders are not enforced, conflict increases and children suffer.

Accountability protects children.

Consistency protects children.

Clarity protects children.

Strong families require enforceable orders. I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB744.