

Subject: Re: Raised Bill #5509 An Act Concerning the Payment of Alimony and Child Support

Representative Fox / Senator Coleman

Judiciary Committee, Chair

Dear Representative Fox and Senator Coleman:

I am opposed to Bill #5509 because "control by pocketbook" is no way for divorced former spouses to have to deal with one another. This bill would allow for the potential of an already abusive and controlling former husband to continue to abuse and control his former wife by monitoring and therefore allowing potential contesting of each and every expenditure she makes with her child support money. It would force litigation between former spouses whenever the paying spouse wishes to contest an expenditure and will make actual support of the children of the marriage a logistical impossibility by the payee spouse.

I would argue that in many cases, the state will be completely unable to monitor and/or keep up with the claims and contests this bill would allow by the payor spouse.

In my case, my ex-husband already controls by the pocketbook by refusing to pay for extra-curricular activities which, under our Divorce Decree he is obligated to, but only to the extent he approves of them. To wit, this entitles him to veto any suggestions for after school or extra-curricular activities I make - control by the pocketbook. Giving him direct power to veto my direct payment for any of these activities with my child support payments would render me powerless over the activities of the children. This total loss of power would be sanctioned by the State Legislature. It is this control, a form of abuse, that was one of the reasons leading me to divorce my ex-husband in the first place. However, the passage of this Bill would essentially bring me back under the control of this abusive man all over again.

Therefore, I am asking that you kill bill 5509, which in my opinion is an insult and gives credence to the antiquated notion that women are incapable of responsible monetary spending for the care of their children. How dare the Legislature take such an outdated stance in the 21st Century!

Sincerely,

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