

Testimony of David Kelman  
In FAVOR of HB6645  
For Judiciary Committee Public Hearing  
April 5, 2013

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am an involved father of two children. When I was divorced in 2003 both of my children were minors. I pay child support in full and on time consistently. While I am a joint legal custodian and joint residential custodian, I am a non-custodial parent who has had to fight hard to remain in my children's lives because of a system that failed me, and I presume many non-custodial parents.

I am in favor of HB6645 because I feel it will help other parents and children from suffering the pain I and my children have endured all these years. Today as a result of unresolved parental conflict, I feel my relationship with my children is strained.

When I raised issues of parental alienation and failure of my co-parent to do nothing to interfere in my (good) parenting the Court and the guardian ad litem did little to ensure our children had the best possible relationship with both parents.

When I filed a motion requesting that my then-minor children attend mental health counseling with me. My ex-wife testified against counseling as did guardian ad litem. The Court denied my request without even ordering an evaluation from a mental health professional to see if our family would benefit from such counseling.

To this day, I cannot understand how a judge could deny a father's request to try to improve his relationship with his children with the assistance of a qualified mental health professional.

Children need both parents.

I urge all Committee members to vote in FAVOR of HB6645.

Thank you for your kind attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,  
David Kelman

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