

Moniz-Carroll, Rhonda

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Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2015 5:17 PM
To: Senator Coleman; Sen. Kissel, John A.; zRepresentative Rosa Rebimbas; Rep. Baram, David; Senator Doyle; Rep. Fox, Dan; zRepresentative Richard Smith; Cecelia.buck-taylor@housegop.ct.gov; Arthur.oneill@cga.ct.gov; zRepresentative Tom ODea; zRepresentative Doug Dubitsky; Rep. Godfrey, Bob; zRepresentative John Shaban; Steven.stafstrom@cga.ct.gov; Stephen.harding@housegop.ct.gov; zRepresentative David Labriola; JudTestimony
Subject: I Support Shared Parenting and a Children's Right to Equal Access

Dear Judiciary,

I have testified and spoken to many of you personally in prior years on the subject of shared parenting. Once again, I implore you to consider the amendments below and give children equal access to both loving, non abusive parents. I and countless others, find ourselves in situations where our children are kept from us simply because of a perceived or created animosity on the part of the other parent. Our kids relationships should not subject to the whims of possibly selfish parents whose only interest is to hurt the other parent through the person they love most, not considering the damage done to the child itself. Regardless however, of which parent is the "nice" one, our children in this country should have the right to be with both parents equally whenever possible. It's the future, it's coming, and I hope you will begin the healing with your vote of confidence in the amendments to HB5505.

I advocate amendments to HB 5505 to reduce conflict by giving each parent an incentive to support the other parents. This implements CT's 2005 law-other states (MA, MD and others) are implementing shared parenting. Here are the proposed amendments:

Sec. 4. Section 46b-56 of the general statutes is amended by adding subsection (j) as follows (Effective October 1, 2014):

(new) (j) In cases involving an existing Parental Responsibility Plan (PRP), or any existing custodial order, statutory factors (6) and (7) of Conn. Gen. Sats 46b-56(c) shall determine the resolution of any dispute. A pattern of noncompliance with existing custodial orders, or with an existing PRP provides evidence of unwillingness to foster a good parent-child relationship (violation of factor 6) and/or manipulative or coercive behavior (factor 7). Such pattern of noncompliance will result in a finding in favor of the other parent.

Note: the relevant factors:

(6) the willingness and ability of each parent to facilitate and encourage such continuing parent-child relationship between the child and the other parent as is appropriate, including compliance with any court orders;

(7) any manipulation by or coercive behavior of the parents in an effort to involve the child in the parents' dispute.

Rationale: to reduce litigation by establishing the primary role of behavior fostering a good relationship with the other parent.

Very Best,