

To whom it may concern,

I am strongly in favor of the adoption of bill SB-442 and have extensive personal experience to support this position. I spoke in front of the Judiciary committee in February of 2018 regarding the reappointment of Judge Emons. At that time, I was 7 years into divorce proceedings and had approximately 500 motions filed on the docket. The majority of these motions were filed by my ex, Colleen Kerwick, who is an attorney and pro se litigant. I explained to the committee that I had also spent over 1 million dollars defending myself from the constant onslaught of filings.

At that hearing, I was verbally attacked by Minnie Gonzalez who made numerous disparaging personal remarks to me and who has attended hearings in my divorce case which I pointed out to the committee with a follow up letter with the transcript of one of the hearings she attended. Unfortunately, not one committee member returned my calls after the hearing and the system went right back to working in its broken manner.

So here it is 2 years later and now we are up to almost 700 motions filed on the docket and 9 years in court. Yes, I am going to say that again because it is almost impossible to believe. I have been stuck in the family court system for 9 years and 700 motions. That is absolutely absurd.

Some of the reasons for the ridiculous nature of our case are addressed in this bill and that is good for those in the future as nobody should have to go through what I'm going through. But, what about those cases that continue to drag on forever like mine? Something has to be done. I am a survivor of domestic violence, as well as an absurd amount of daily abuse as is the court system that is using up so many resources allowing my ex to run roughshod through the system. Why can't this bill also address the current situations that are beyond abusive at this point?

I wholeheartedly support the provision in the bill with regard to having one Judge see through a case. I have had 9 Judges over the 9 years and I will give a perfect example of the folly of the rotating Judge system. Our case was settled at trial in 2014 and the Judge at the time was wise enough to write court orders that prevented my ex from filing any custody motion without pre approval of the court. So, what happens? My ex keeps filing custody motions until she got a Judge who was not familiar with our case and clearly did not do his job of reviewing the existing orders and he granted her motion for a new evaluation and trial. So, here we are now, 4 years after that ruling and I have spent in excess of another \$100,000 defending myself, and the court has wasted enormous amounts of time for absolutely no reason. What is the point of court orders if the Judges don't even bother to follow them? Why are litigants allowed to grossly perjur themselves in motions and there are no repercussions for their actions?

This bill will only be as good as the Judges behind the system and clearly a lot of work needs to be done in this regard. How did the system get so broke that Judges can't even follow their own orders and litigants never have to worry about sanctions for not following orders?

I am hopeful that this bill will be the start of meaningful reform going forward. However, it would also be helpful if existing cases could be addressed in some fashion. I'm not talking about the normal run of the mill cases, but certainly 9 years in court and 700 motions filed on the docket is a big black eye for the Connecticut family court system and someone should care about this before it becomes national news and cast an even further negative light on our system.

Respectfully,

Ken Savino