

Good morning, Chairsuperson, and members of the House. My name is Heather Zins, and I writing this letter in support of HB1533.

I am a victim of litigation abuse, even as I type this letter I fear how its submission will be used against me in the court system by my child's father.

I met my abuser in 2004 and had our child that same year. Our relationship was toxic from the start and got worse after having a child together. In early 2005 I was granted a one year Protection Order against my child's father. The Protection Order was then extended another 2 years due a violation of the order.

Little did I know that the Protection Order would only be the start of what has been an 18 year drawn out problem for me, my family and the court system.

In our child support docket there has been nearly 700 filings. There have also been multiple Supreme Court appeals. I have had legal representation the entire time, while he has represented himself pro se. This ongoing court struggle has not only cost me thousands of dollars but also time with my family and time off from my work.

While the cost of legal representation adds up I have also not been receiving child support. The Child Support Enforcement Unit is unable to proceed in collection because the case has constantly been reopened with new filings.

There have been multiple occasions where there has been a ruling regarding events and then years later he will rehash these old traumatic events with new litigation. It's as if he's forcing me to relive these times by having to read the sometimes 30 to 60 page affidavits or briefs. Then once we are back in the court room, because he is Pro Se, he can personally ask questions of me while I am on stand. I view this as a whole new form of abuse.

Our most recent situation has been having to fight to keep my personal and business financial and tax information protected against his scrutiny and abuse. He believes he has every right to view this personal information.

As my child recently turned 18 years old a person would think that we have reached the end of this litigation abuse, however, my attorney and I strongly feel this is not the case.

In closing I ask to please pass this bill to end an abusers ability to attack their victims by utilizing the court system.