

Testimony in support of HB1242

House Judiciary Committee

Testimony of Shayla Davila

Owner, Holistic Healing Consulting

Co-founder, Made Worthy LLC

Human Trafficking Lived Experience Expert & Trauma-Informed Health Coach

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Chairperson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Shayla Davila, and I am a trauma-informed health coach, a human trafficking lived experience expert, and the owner of Holistic Healing Consulting. I am also the co-founder of Made Worthy LLC, where I advocate for healing and empowerment for trauma survivors. I am here today to express my strong support for the Rebuttable Shared Parenting bill.

I know firsthand the deep and lasting effects that trauma has on the mind and body, not just for individuals but for entire families. As someone who has experienced significant trauma, I have dedicated my life to helping

others heal from it. One of the most overlooked yet profound sources of childhood trauma is parental alienation. When children are separated from a loving parent due to biased custody decisions, the consequences can be devastating.

Children who experience parental alienation are more likely to suffer from depression, anxiety, and feelings of unworthiness. They are also at greater risk of engaging in substance abuse, joining gangs, or even becoming victims of human trafficking. As a lived experience expert, I have seen the direct correlation between childhood trauma and increased vulnerability to exploitation. When children grow up feeling abandoned, unheard, or caught in the middle of parental conflict, they are more susceptible to those who prey on their pain.

This bill is not about favoring one parent over another, it is about ensuring that children have the opportunity to maintain healthy relationships with both parents whenever it is in their best interest. Stability, love, and support from both parents can significantly reduce the risk of lifelong trauma and the many societal issues that stem from it.

By passing this bill, we are not only protecting parents rights but, more importantly, safeguarding children's

futures. We have a responsibility to break cycles of trauma and give children the foundation they need to thrive. I urge you to support the Rebuttable Shared Parenting bill for the sake of the families and communities it will impact.

Thank you for your time and consideration.