

2/9/2025

HB 1242 | Rebuttable Shared Parenting

Who | Arlyss Moline

88 yr old great-grandmother

I submit my testimony in favor of House Bill 1242 Rebuttable Shared Parenting

I am an 88 year old great grandmother to three little boys, ages 6, 4 and 2. I have been an active part of their lives, caring for them every Tues afternoon, preparing meals for the family and creating cherished memories. Whether it was going for walks, baking cookies, playing music together, making Valentine Cards or May Baskets, these moments were full of joy and love. I am proud to be their “Gigi”.

In Sept of 2023 everything changed when my grandson’s wife took the three boys without warning for 8 days. Later, I was served with a “No Trespass Order” falsely accusing me of threatening and harassing her. Then in December of 2023 she took the children again, moving 150 miles away to Montana. Despite the clear violation of Court Orders, the judge did nothing to address the Contempt. It was 48 days before we saw the children again.

The pain of being kept from my grandchildren is overwhelming. Their mother has deliberately cut them off from our extended family, and it feels as though something has overtaken her heart. I fear for their emotional well-being and future. My grandson who is trying his best to be a loving father, faces unnecessary barriers and manipulation. She uses their sons and pawns to sever their bond with him and with us.

The boys have limited visitation with their father. It is not enough to maintain the close, supportive family connections that they need. It breaks my heart to know that the packages of love and care I send are never given to them. Every night, I lie awake, praying for their safety and well-being. And hoping that one day they will be reunited with their extended family where they can feel the love and stability that they deserve.

I strongly support the rebuttable shared parenting bill, time taken time back bill, and the three strikes bill.

These bills are essential to ensure children are not used as pawns in a custody dispute and that both parents and extended families have equal rights to maintain meaningful relationships with the children. The emotional well-being of children should always be a priority, and these bills are necessary to protect that.

Thank you for considering this important issue.