

Personal Testimony Against HB 1242

This bill causes me huge worry not only for the safety and stability of my child's future, but for all children residing in the state of ND. In 2021 my child's mother chose to leave the state offering zero guidance or help with childcare. She offered zero support, and when asked how I was supposed to be able to go to work and make a living to support my son she replied I should "figure it out". In response to this, my mother moved from Indiana to North Dakota to help me take care of my son. I filed a motion for primary residential responsibility, which I was awarded by the court. If house bill 1242 were to pass, my sons mother could motion the court for equal parenting time, and just as easily move out of state again. This is not what is in the best interest of my young child, nor would it give him the stability a child needs in their life. How is this just or right? Why would we allow a parent who has never made an effort to be involved in their child's life the opportunity to remove them from the stability of the parents home that has always been there for them? The consequences of this could horribly damage the physical and emotional safety of too many children to count, and I hope to see the house reconsider.