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Good morning, members of the legislature. My name is Krystel Magnuson, and I am the proud mother of two beautiful children, ages 12 and 11. I am here today to advocate for the Rebuttable Shared Parenting Bill, the Three Strikes Bill, and the Time Taken, Time Back Bill—three vital pieces of legislation that will protect the mental health, stability, and well-being of children in North Dakota.

Since my divorce in 2017, my ex-husband and I shared a 50/50 custody agreement. Due to his work schedule, which takes him out of state for months at a time, I've cared for our children far beyond what was outlined in our arrangement. Despite this, I never sought additional support or challenged the agreement, valuing the extra time I had with my children.

Everything changed in April of last year. After years of enduring financial intimidation and verbal hostility, I requested mediation to resolve a disagreement over summer plans for our children. Less than 24 hours later, I was accused of physically abusing my kids—an allegation that led to a CPS investigation. Although the investigation confirmed the allegations were unfounded, I have been alienated from my children for nine long months.

I am now forced to endure supervised visitation while my children are manipulated and isolated from me and half of their support structure. This will continue until the courts hear my case on January 31, 2025—seven long months after CPS concluded the allegations were baseless. This ordeal has been soul-crushing—not just for me, but for my children, who are paying the steepest price.

This situation is not unique to me. Throughout this nightmare, I have met countless parents who have been subjected to similar tactics of parental alienation and exploitation of the legal system. Without these laws, the abuse of our current system will continue, and the mental health and well-being of children across North Dakota will remain at risk.

The Rebuttable Shared Parenting Bill ensures children benefit from the love and involvement of both parents unless there is clear evidence otherwise. The Three Strikes Bill upholds accountability and prevents a parent from withholding custody of a child without facing consequences. The Time Taken, Time Back Bill seeks to restore the parent-child bond by compensating parents who unjustly lose precious time with their children. It ensures that time lost due to false allegations is given back for reunification and healing.

These laws are not just reforms—they are safeguards for the most vulnerable members of our society: our children. Their futures depend on us taking action now.

I urge you to support these critical bills and stand up for the well-being of North Dakota's children. Thank you for your time and consideration.

X Krystel Magnuson