

Dear Members of the Legislature.

My name is Brandy Johnson, and I reside in Dickinson, ND. I stand before you today as an erased mother, stripped of the fundamental joys and responsibilities of parenthood due to the devastating effects of parental alienation. For the past nine years, I have been denied meaningful time with my children despite having a court order granting me parenting time and shared holidays. My experience has shown me that our current family law system fails to protect the parent-child bond, leaving children vulnerable to manipulation and emotional harm. I urge you to support the proposed legislation—the Rebuttable Shared Parenting Bill, the Three Strikes Bill, and the Time Taken, Time Back Bill—to address these systemic injustices. This is an executive summary of my case. My full 30+ pages of testimony is available upon request detailing my situation and the negative effects this has had on my children and family over the years.

The Effects of Parental Alienation

Parental alienation is a form of emotional abuse where one parent manipulates a child to reject the other parent. This coercion damages the child's psychological well-being and severs their natural relationship with the targeted parent. In my case, my ex-husband weaponized our children to inflict control and punishment, fabricating false narratives to alienate me from them. This alienation was not only emotionally devastating but has also led to long-term psychological harm for my children, including behavioral issues, emotional instability, and academic struggles.

Children subjected to alienation experience immense confusion and distress, as they are forced to navigate loyalty conflicts and internalize negative messages about the targeted parent. The targeted parent, in turn, is left powerless, unable to enforce court orders or counteract the manipulation effectively. These situations create cycles of trauma that ripple through families, leaving lasting scars.

The Importance of the Proposed Legislation

The legislative measures before you offer tangible solutions to these issues:

1. Rebuttable Shared Parenting Bill This bill promotes equality by establishing a presumption of shared parenting unless evidence demonstrates it is not in the child's best interest. Shared parenting fosters stability and ensures that both parents remain active in their children's lives, reducing opportunities for alienation to take root. It recognizes that children benefit most when they have consistent and meaningful relationships with both parents.

2. Three Strikes Bill This legislation would hold parents accountable for repeated violations of court-ordered parenting time. Chronic non-compliance with court orders undermines the legal process and deprives children of their right to both parents. The Three Strikes Bill would provide enforceable consequences, ensuring compliance and deterring alienating behaviors.

3. Time Taken, Time Back Bill This bill addresses the loss of parenting time caused by unjustified denials of access. For every hour a parent is wrongfully deprived of time with their

child, this legislation seeks to restore that time, reaffirming the child's right to both parents. This measure would provide immediate and restorative relief for families impacted by alienation.

Closing

Our children deserve better than a system that allows their relationships with loving parents to be destroyed. These bills are a step toward safeguarding the parent-child bond, holding alienating parents accountable, and ensuring that our legal framework prioritizes the best interests of children.

I urge you to support these critical legislative measures to protect families from the devastating effects of parental alienation. Let us create a system that truly upholds fairness, accountability, and the well-being of our children.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Brandy Johnson
Dickinson, ND

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brandy Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "B".

1/1/2025