

My name is Halle Peterson, and I am here to express my strong opposition to the bills proposed by my dad. My concerns for SB 2186 are as follows:

I believe this bill unjustly prevents loving and caring parents from consoling and protecting their children, instilling a fear of punishment. My siblings and I have had numerous encounters with our dad. While we sometimes managed to work things out, there were critical moments when we desperately needed our mom's support, comfort, and protection when we were on our dad's time.

I won't recount the story from Senate Bill 2184 where my dad locked us in the apartment, pushed us around, and got angry, prompting me to rollerblade to a friend's house where my mom was there for me. Nor will I revisit the distressing incident where, after a very disturbing talk about my duty to have sex when my future husband wants it, I sought refuge at my mom's house. Yet, these experiences profoundly highlight the importance of our mom's presence in our lives and I shudder to think that my mom could be charged with a criminal act because I decided to run from my unsafe parent.

Under the proposed law changes, spending a very short time with our mom at the wrong time could be punishable. I fail to see how this is beneficial, but I clearly see how it can harm a loving parent. I shouldn't have to live in fear that my mom could be charged with a crime simply because I sought safety, love, and comfort in her presence.

Additionally, I am concerned about the implications for parents who might be late dropping off their child. This could be misconstrued as detaining the child, resulting in misdemeanor charges and potentially, with repeated instances, felony charges. This is profoundly unfair to both the parent and the child and is easily open to abuse.