

As a college instructor for over 20 years, I have seen MANY parental disputes and the impact they have on the lives of both parents and children. Expecting a parent to change their life through education, work advancement and more while at the same time fighting a battle for custody is insane. And yet, due to court and agency involvement, I saw this happening every day, often to multiple students each semester.

The belief that one parent cares more, is more qualified, and has a more vested interest in the children involved is just plain WRONG. Each parent, unless it can be unquestionably proven beyond a shadow of a doubt, should have access to their child without needing to invest excessive legal funds, time and effort in reaching the location where the child is located, and should be involved in the decision-making process of raising that child. The fact a child doesn't live with a parent 24/7 doesn't make a parent's impact any less important or that parent any less deserving of being involved in that child's economic and physical/mental wellbeing.

Children are currently being used as pawns with judicial backing, and it needs to STOP. The pain of a parent becomes the pain of the child. SB 2383 assures the process of shared parenting is streamlined, less expensive, and will be beneficial to all.

SB 2383 will remove an added burden on the court system and allow more families to heal rather than keep the wounds of separation open and bleeding.

I urge you to pass SB 2383. Please help preserve the parent-child relationship and stop the ongoing legal chaos that ensures no one will survive without scars.