

## Committee Speech

### A. Introduction

- Mr./Mrs. Speaker, Committee members, My name is Paul Schumacher
- Not employee of ITD but caring, devoted, loving father and husband to my new wife and step sons.

### B. Daughter Rachel born 08-05-2007

- Wasn't notified of birth
- Interim order Jan 08
- Not allowed reasonable contact for 5 months/ sought legal action

#### Interim order

- Every other weekend and every other holiday
- Despite asking numerous times/9 extra hours for 7 months
- Period of May 11<sup>th</sup> – June 8<sup>th</sup> > not allowed to see my daughter despite asking dozens of times.

June 26<sup>th</sup>, Hon. Judge Gail Haggerty ordered equal physical custody

- 1 week on/1 week off

### C. Since then

- Threatening emails
- Continued threats of legal action to overturn judgment
- Social services called against me for false accusations
- Continued interference during my on weeks
- Seen by Dr. once a week for last 1 month for bug bites, weight checks, a bruise from a fall while learning to walk, a scratch from a toy, and supposed malnutrition and dehydration.
- This mother is clearly not happy with current custody and child support arrangements.

### D. Support this bill and pleased with its direction

- I would like to see more on paper for fit fathers who want to be involved in the child's life to define the fathers legal rights without having to spend thousands of dollars on attorneys and miss out on their child's first year or possibly longer.
- I largely missed out on my daughters first year while waiting on the legal process. I hope no more loving fathers have to go through what I did to be in my daughter's life.
- Mothers have the power and I hope this new proposed legislation can make things more equal for both parents.