



HB508 Fails the Families of Ohio

With recent discussions about possible changes to the way, Ohio looks at custody cases (HB508) for those divorcing there is a lot that the general public does not know about this process and how it affects everyone, not just those involved in these cases.

The process of divorce is the dissolving of the legal contract that exists when a man and a woman marry. During this process the courts decide and approved the division of marital assets and if there are children involved, who will be the primary parent for those children. While marital assets are divided equally, the time spent with the children often is not and that is where current law fails not only the children but society and everyone in Ohio as a whole.

Under current law, we fail to keep a child's entire family fully involved, that includes aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents, as well as both the mother and father.

We fail when we bring about needless and costly litigation that has parents spending their children's college funds to try to grab a few extra days of time with a child that they have been with equally since birth. HB508, because of the language in it will force parents to argue what used to be "the factors for determining custody" individually instead of as one and do it on a he said/she said basis.

We drive up everyone's taxes to support large court staff (HB508 will cause increases) and court buildings specifically built for these cases. There are more cases heard concerning custody between two parents in the "family courts" than are heard in the general divisions of Common Pleas which handle felonies and major lawsuits.

We fail business when we repeatedly cause workers to have to take a day off for trivial issues in court. When the worker is off for the day a business needs to replace them or in many cases lose productivity for the day. Lost productivity causes lost tax dollars during this.

We fail our children's education by not taking advantage of the ability of both the mother and father's educational specialties. This also drives up taxes because the colleges often have to teach math remedially to bring a freshman up to date on their math skills.

We fail society with higher crime rates as they have missed the greater degree of discipline that is provided by a father. Without that discipline, youth lack respect for others and are statistically more prone to drug addiction.

Unfortunately what is being proposed in HB508 will not solve any of these problems.

While we have long worked to fix and update what are 40-year-old approaches that do not fit or serve the families of today, this bill is a clear failure at doing what some claim it is intended to do. If we are to protect the entire family and every citizen in Ohio we must respectfully ask those in the Ohio Legislature to fix the problem rather than throw wasteful and confusing patches at a decades-old problem.

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