

*Remarks of*  
**Michael Geer**  
President  
Pennsylvania Family Institute  
Before the House Judiciary Committee  
Task Force on Domestic Relations  
Hearing on No-Fault Divorce

Madame Chairman, members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify to you this afternoon. I am Michael Geer, President of the Pennsylvania Family Institute, a non-profit, non-partisan research and education organization that focuses on policies and cultural trends that impact families.

Earlier this year, we published the report, *Breaking Up is Easy To Do: A Look at No-Fault Divorce in Pennsylvania*. We are advocates of change regarding unilateral no-fault divorce because it significantly impacts families, children and society for the worse.

Prior to no-fault, in divorce proceedings, there was the party at fault, and there was the “innocent and injured” spouse. Under unilateral no-fault, the law suddenly says there is no party at fault, and, as would follow then, no innocent and injured spouse. But that change in legal status doesn’t eliminate the fact that in these cases there remains an innocent and injured spouse, and under no fault here in Pennsylvania they are only further injured.

Whether or not reforming no-fault divorce will reduce the divorce rate we do not know. What we do know is that unilateral no-fault divorce is unjust, and each year further injures thousands of innocent spouses and children. It is because of that injustice that the law must be changed.

I am now pleased to introduce to you Mr. David Blankenhorn, President of the Institute for American Values.