

House Judiciary Public Hearing on House Bill
1397, Equality in Parenting Time
Subcommittee on Family Law
Room 60 East Wing
Harrisburg, PA 17120
Monday, December 9, 2019
Written Testimony submitted by
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I would like to start off by thanking Chairman Sheryl DeLozier, Chairman Tina Davis and Honorable Susan Helm for the opportunity to submit Testimony, in support of HB 1397.

I believe that the best chance a child has for success in this life, is to have continued and equal time with both parents. Denying time with a parent causes continuous Trauma to the life of the child and the life of the loving parent.

With that said, I experience Trauma daily, wondering and worrying about both of my daughters and not understanding why I am being denied time with my own children.

I have a daughter who is now 13. Her mother married a violent abuser, 10 years ago. He has been convicted of abusing the mother. He has put bruises on my daughter, several times. Every time I reached out to the justice system, to protect my daughter, my custody time ended up being reduced more and more. The mother of my child has always defended the abuser.

The week of Thanksgiving 2019, my 13-year-old daughter told me her stepfather told her he's going to slit her throat, burn her clothing, punch her in the face and throw her and her mom out of the house.

The police were notified. My daughter will not give a statement to the police and my daughter does not have her mothers support. My daughter believes everyone will blame her, if the stepfather goes to jail. My daughter has been conditioned to accept a life of chaos, just like her mother, and I am being denied an opportunity to provide any type of normalcy in my daughter's life.

I have another situation which is also incredibly difficult to talk about. I have a daughter who was born in October. To this day, the mother has not notified me of the birth of this child. I have no way of contacting her except through a attorney.

November 26, 2019, marked one year since I told my girlfriend of 6 months that the relationship was over and to move out. She moved in the day she met me, she was pressuring for marriage, pressuring me to buy her a million-dollar farm and sell my house. She was paying most of my bills, buying me expensive gifts and she had just stopped birth control. She was setting a trap to force her own agenda.

She wouldn't leave. I completely cut her off from sex. She began the process of selling the house she bought 1 year prior. I couldn't stop her. She had an agenda of control and force and she took what she wanted, when she wanted it, including sex, against my will. I became a prisoner in my own home.

She became pregnant. I had a deep love of this child the day I learned of her. I did not want to be separated from this child and I did not want to have a broken family, again.

I now had to learn to love this woman and to forgive her for what she had done to me to become pregnant. I needed time. She did not have time. She ran me into the ground mentally, physically and emotionally. I was suffering.

A few months into the pregnancy, she decided it was time to destroy me. She took an above and beyond course of actions to destroy me, beginning with a failed PFA. She had her day in a Lebanon County Courtroom, dressed in her Military Uniform, with a pregnant belly and she could not convince a Judge that I did anything at all to her. The PFA was dismissed by the Court.

That is just the tip of the iceberg of her destruction. Her blind obsession to trap me, force a pregnancy to force a marriage, had now shifted into a blind obsession to destroy me, eliminate me and deny a child a Father.

I have now learned that the National Guard approved her transfer, from the Lebanon Unit, to a Unit over 3 hours away. The National Guard has not reached out to me to ask how the transfer would affect the child's relationship with her Father. My 13-year-old daughter is suffering, from being denied a sibling.

My life has been altered forever. My children mean everything to me. The best interest of the children and the parents, in the Commonwealth, will be best served by passing HB 1397.

Thank you for allowing me to share my story.

William P. Eckenroth III