



FAIRVIEW
SCHOOL DISTRICT

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November 25, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to write this letter on behalf and in support of House Bill 1397. As a high school building principal, I can speak to the toll that parental alienation takes on students in terms of the social well-being and academic performance.

Any type of parental separation can be challenging for students in even the most amicable situations. Such agreeable scenarios are, however, far from common. More frequently, students are left to face the rigors of school while also having to navigate the difficulty of a change in life at home. When a parent is alienated from her/his child, these added tensions take a toll on students' socio-emotional development and have countless impacts on their lives both in and outside of school.

Even if parents are not residing or living together, it is still important for students to have interactions with both of their parents as they experience the trials, successes, setbacks, and joys inherent to the journey from adolescence to young adulthood. I can, anecdotally, second the research noting the improved emotional health and decreased anxiety/depression when students experience shared parenting.

It is my hope that the passage of House Bill 1397 increases the likelihood that students will continue to benefit from shared parenting and that there will be more equality in custody determinations to assure that there are two well-meaning parents involved in their lives, regardless of the adults' disagreements. In the end, this will be what is best for students and provide them with the best opportunity for success as they move into the next chapters of their lives.

Respectfully,

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