

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committees
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Email: legcon.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary,

RE: Family Law Legislation Amendment (Family Violence and Other Measures) Bill

I am just an ordinary guy, a (damn good) gardener, and proud father of two fantastic children. I have read through the proposed amendments and won't pretend to understand all the legal ramifications.

However I do understand that this legislation is being promoted by some people, as a first wedge towards a rolled back the principle of the shared care of children, through rephrasing of legislation.

I have a 50% shared care arrangement, won through court, and am in no doubt that it is the best situation for our children, AND it has reduced my children's exposure to family violence and abuse.

I know that our shared care arrangements provides a 'checks and balance' type system in place to the care of our children.

On this point, I want to make clear that I support equality and freedom for everyone, and am not

anti-feminist.

My children love me deeply, and enjoy being with me. I can teach them everything I know, and they learn many things that they would miss out on should they not have access to me.

I also have a number of friends, who are good, honest, caring men, who do not have access to their children. This is because they have also been falsely accused of 'family violence', and they do not understand the legal system, and do not have the money for solicitors.

Those men just give up, and their children are raised by isolating, emotionally abusive, controlling individuals. Those children miss out, and no one will know what they suffer.

I strongly support efforts to expand interpretations of family violence and means to protect children from it. I think this amendment does not incorporate emotional violence adequately and this is of major significance.