

House of Representatives Standing Committee
on Family and Community Affairs

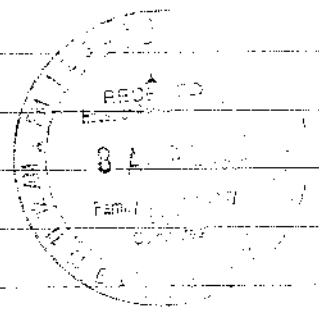
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Secretary:

Gail Middleton
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House of Representatives Standing Committee
on Family and Community Affairs
Parliament House
Canberra
ACT 2600.



Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to express my concern with the Parliamentary enquiry in regards to joint residency. How could this possibly ever been considered as a fair and reasonable change to make that will upset and totally disrupt so many of our childrens lives. If its not enough that they have to go through the break-up of the very foundation of their existence - ie: their family unit, and adjust to a whole new way of living, now the government wishes to change this further for them and throw many children back into the chaotic stressful adjustments that many of us single parents have been striving to get away from. Children need routine and stability and if they are placed in 2 separate homes how can this happen? I guarantee you will have parents trying to better and outdo

each other, or the complete opposite where the children will be neglected.

As a single mother of 4 young boys, I encourage them to see their father, I do not

My story will be different to the one before and the one after. How could the laws generalise on such a broad + diverse area? Aren't we supposed to be looking out for what is best for the children, not what might suit the parents best? Go back to the child rearing books + see that routine + stability are essential to raise balanced healthy children

What of the financial strain, not only on families, but on the community and taxpayers? I barely make end meet now, and if my income were to be halved, where does it leave my children then. Who is going to employ people

on a week about basis or for only 6 months at a time. So, please tell me how this could work for me and my children. Tell me how they will benefit from these changes, and how much better their lives will be. Then, you can explain to them why their lives are filled with uncertainty and conflict again.

So on behalf of my four beautiful children and myself, I hope and pray that the joint residency issue will not be considered as a viable option.

Regards.

Gail Middlee