

Forbes, Bev (REPS)

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From:
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To:

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Committee, FCA (REPS)
Secretary:

To whom it may concern,

Two years ago I was happily married and had been for 7 years with two step kids and a son of my own. Then my wife decided to leave me out of the blue. It was her second marriage. Since then I have not seen my step kids at all after raising them from the ages of 3 and 5 for 7 years and have had to put up with my wife trying to take my other son away from me all the time. I currently see him (Zac) 50% of the time. Now she is trying to move away and take him with her 100% of the time.

On top of that I have to work full time to keep paying the bills while my wife works 2-3 days a week and lives in luxury. I currently live with my brother and his family.

She gets - her wage as a travel consultant, 2 lots of child support, single parent pension, family tax part a and b and a carers allowance giving her somewhere between \$40 - 50 thousand a year and I still have to pay her over \$400 a month even when i have my son 2 weeks out of every month. Then on top of this I have to buy clothing etc when he lives with me, meet child care expenses when he is with me, pay his medical expenses and any other expenses like education expenses that occur in the week he is with me.

Then on top of that she gets a health care card and reductions on her car rego, medication, school fees and electricity costs. Where is the fairness in this system

If I try to improve my wage all I do is have to pay more to her. I would be better off going on the dole and receiving the single parent pension but that is not setting the right example for my son. Where is the fairness in this system. The mothers get the kids, get the finances and get the control to make life as difficult as possible for the fathers.

Why can't the mother have to produce receipts for the money spent on the child to receive the child support money? A much fairer system and at least you know your money is going to your son where at the moment it is spent on her and her new boyfriend.

As for the child support system one week I received thirty letters from them and I have always tried to keep up with my payments! They make you out to be a dead beat and criminal.

Why should I need to pay that sort of money to my ex when we have shared care. I also spent four years of my life studying to improve myself and all it has resulted in is setting up my ex very well financially. She knows this and continues to rub it in.

The system is so unfair and major changes need to take place. Do you have any advice because the last two years of my life have been an absolute nightmare and has cost me a small fortune to see my own son 50% of the time. My step kids have now been brainwashed against me and I have never been able to put my story to them that it wasn't my decision to separate.

I am just one of many that gets a raw deal and are made to suffer for the next 15yrs until my son turns 18. I pray that changes to the child support system and a custody laws will take place because at the moment they are extremely unfair.

regards
David McDonnell

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