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| House of Representatives Standing Committee<br>on Family and Community Affairs |         |
| Submission No:   | 1339    |
| Date Received:   | 19-8-03 |
| Secretary:   |         |

Mr. Gene Rughie  
5 Coimen Close  
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7-7-03

Standing Committee  
on Family & Community Affairs  
c/- Joanne Gosh

Dear Members,

As a mother & grandmother with a son in this predicament (he has 2 gorgeous children). I'm writing to ask you to look at the whole picture. It's difficult for me to put in words all the things I want to say. The child support system in this country is so biased & unfair & that goes for custody, as well. You can't rectify the access for non custodial parents without fixing the financial side, they go hand in hand.

You have to be in this position to know how hungry the females are for money & use the kids as pawns, (there are some nice & fair females out there). & if they decide "you can't have the kids until I get my way", where does the money come from for solicitors & court cases? In the mean time the kids miss out on their DAD'S.

My son has to buy his own clothes for his children, the mother won't give him any, & pay child support (he struggles with this). He & other dads can't get ahead in life, the more they earn the more the EX gets (not the kids). Child support should be a set amount per child per week (eg \$25 per child). If you know if child support was a set amount, I'm sure you will find that everything will settle down. More men would pay their child support (leaving the government money), access would become more plentiful (no reason to use the kids) Men could work hard again. I'm sure with the system being fairer, men would be happy to

contribute more financial help for their children (not being dictated to).

They are sick of keeping the other male & his kids. I'm sure whoever worked this system out didn't realize the suicides & heartache it would cause. If you have made it so easy for women & hard for the children, after all they seem to be the ones suffering, there is no incentive for women to work at relationships anymore, a couple of kids & the male & government will pay.

Working out Child support, why is it worked out before tax, the taxation dept. gets the tax, makes pay whatever percentage of child support on money that taxation takes & why is it not a tax deduction (if they were living with the kids it would be) & why can a woman earn \$33,000.00 before her earning come into play. (women should help with their own children) you should publish in the paper how those payments are arrived at, because when you tell people, they can't believe it. What about property settlements some of these women get.

Please look at the whole picture, not just one side or it won't work & maybe we can have happy families again.

I have enclosed a copy of a letter my friend gave me, this probably explains things better.

When will you people realize the destruction you are causing, the threats from Child Support, dealing with them is an insult, they are not... compassionate or understanding, the young men have to live too. Threatening to go into bank accounts that actually hold TAX & GST, government money, not the sp. funds. "We will sell your house" for God's sake where does one live (in the gutters) & where would the father take his children, talk about mental cruelty, is there one end in sight.

Everyday I worry, will I have a son to-morrow or will the system kill him as well, he gets so depressed having to cope with all of this why don't you listen this morning I heard a young man working on a building behind where I live, talking to another man, some old story, my heart went out to him.

Please don't file my letter under rubbish. I am genuinely concerned about what this is all doing to families. I know a lot of people going through this & the despair is shocking.

Thanking you  
Cecile Puglisi