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Standing Committee on Family
And Community Affairs
House of Representatives
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House of Representatives Standing Committee
on Family and Community Affairs

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Secretary:

Fairness in Family Law and Child Support

I submit the following suggestions to improve the family law and child support to make it more equitable.

I speak from personal experience in this matter and I feel my suggestions may be helpful in policymaking decisions.

In my experience, the minority destroy for the majority, by using the system to unfair advantage in family law.

Females are favoured far more than the males, using the family law system to gain undue sympathetic support, further distorted with the manipulation of children for monetary gain and emotional blackmail.

Suggestions for improvement are:

a) **Mediation** to be introduced at the point of separation would be beneficial to both parents and the children.

Mediation would create a clear avenue for the relationship to have conflict resolution at the heated point of the argument.

Mediation would set clear standards between both parties and deliver guidelines on both sides of the separation and especially in regards to children's welfare.

Mediation would resolve many of the issues relating to legal costs and deter much of the conflict resulting in civil law suits and A.V.O.

Mediation would be the format in the distribution of assets as opposed to the child support agency.

The child support agency is a dead weight to society and costing the Taxpayer \$1.4 Billion per year. I feel the agency is needed for cases where child abuse or non-contact is apparent with either party.

Mediation should include discussion of stepchildren and the role they play or played in the current relationship and not treated as a commodity or isolated from the stepparent.

b) **Shared care** should play a major role in today's society in order to boost the involvement of the father figure.

Shared care would reduce the assassination of the non-favoured parenting role and the child would be supported through human interaction and not monetary extraction.

Children's needs should only be calculated on basic need and not on the other partner's monetary wealth or income after the division of assets, unless there is a reason why the caring parent is unable to provide, due to disability or concrete medical reason.

Parents, who are given responsibility for their children, will teach responsibility to their children in return.

Note: Under the present system, frustration and anger within Family Law policies has resulted in unprecedented cases of Civil Law, which often end with innocent people in a gaol sentence. The incorporation of mediation would ensure less emotional and financial grief to the children, the parents, and thus reducing societal costs as well.

Sincerely yours

Matthew Meurer