

Mrs. Angie-Lee Carey

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House of Representatives Standing Committee
on Family and Community Affairs

**Standing Committee of Family and
Community Affairs**

**Child Custody Arrangements Inquiry
Department of House of Representatives**

**Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600**

Australia

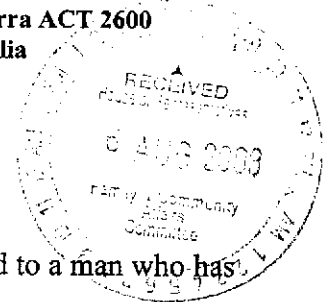
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Secretary: _____

To: Committee

Secretary



1. My name is Angie-Lee Carey; I am 23 years old and married to a man who has three daughters from a previous marriage. My husband and I have both been victims of the current family law courts corruption and biased favoritism of mothers.
2. I believe that Joint custody should definitely be the standard agreement in a divorce situation. If this arrangement is not be acceptable for a certain family then they can work out other agreements from there. There has to be a mutually fair starting point and at the moment that starting point is with the mother having residency of the children and the father being slotted in, at a time suitable for the mother.
3. Children need fathers in their lives. It is vitally important in the wellbeing of the child to have equal input from both parents. It has been discussed that in the functional marriage mothers spend more time with the children than the fathers due to work commitments. This is probable in most marriages because the father is the major breadwinner. However this is not a reason that fathers should not be considered as equally good parents, fathers are as equally important as mothers are, in the upbringing of a child.
4. Fathers should not be penalized for making the sacrifice of not spending as much time with the children, to financially support the family. If fathers do not make this sacrifice then children would suffer the price.
5. I believe that fathers should be given equal access to their children; children should not be made the prize in divorce proceedings. Even if the parents do not

split on amicable terms, this should not reflect on the amount of time the child can spend with either parent. Ultimately it is supposed to be about what is in the best interest of the child. How can anyone say that a child being denied access to their loving father is in the best interests of the child?

6. I also believe that the child support system needs a big change? How is it considered fair that fathers are expected to pay money to the mother, who is supposedly going to use this money for the upkeep of the children, when in many cases fathers are either completely or partially denied contact with their children. The amount of child support expected to be paid by fathers is sending many men into bankruptcy, and forcing them to seek unemployment benefits as a means of survival.
7. I feel that a fair alternative would be that fathers pay money for the children's activities, education, uniforms etc, but pay this money directly to the organisations that it is designated for, rather than paying the money to the mother. If that option is not a viable one, another alternative is for the father to pay money into a trust account for the child, and not directly to the mother. I am sure that a majority of fathers do not object to paying for their children, but why should a father be financially tied to his ex-wife forever through a child support system that is financially crippling him.
8. The amount of child support that is required to be paid needs to be revised. Men should not be financially destitute after divorce due to spousal and child maintenance.
9. We need a fair system that treats parents as equals. Shared parenting should in my opinion, definitely be the standard in divorce. If this was the case, child support would not be a problem as both parents would be equally sharing the responsibilities, both emotionally and financially.

10. I hope you consider my submission, along with the many others you have received, and take active steps to change the current system and create one that is fair and equal to Mothers, Fathers, and most importantly the CHILDREN!

Thank-you for your time,

Yours truly,

Angie -lee Carey.