

July 4,2005

Dear Senator,

I have already contacted you recently with respect to VAWA, but have now added information about my own fraudulent domestic violence petition filed against me years ago. Please understand that this is an epidemic all over the country and VAWA is largely responsible. Fatherhood is under assault and our nation's health is sinking fast...

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) must be modified or allowed to sunset. VAWA funds are being misused all over the country to fuel the opposition to equal parenting reforms and the right of children of divorce to retain significant access to both of their parents. I have seen it here in New Hampshire with my own eyes.

I hope you will take the time to read this letter that the NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (NHCADSV) recently sent the NH legislature in opposition to shared parenting reform:

<http://www.nhcustody.org/NHCADSV,%20opposes%20HB%20529%20shared%20parenting,%203-22-05.pdf>

NHCADSV members also testified orally to the NH Legislature that '80% of fathers who desire shared custody of their children fit the profile of a batterer'. I heard it with my own ears in Representative's Hall during the House Children and Family Law Committee public hearing on HB529 (for the presumption of equal parenting rights and responsibilities). It is clearly the Coalition's position that being a father who has had divorce filed against him is sufficient for labeling as a batterer. The NH Coalition also opposed child support reform in the state recently and will continue to do so as it has for years.

The cold hard truth is that the Coalition also encourages mothers to file domestic violence petitions for the purpose of gaining advantage in custody proceedings and is teaching mothers across NH and across the nation that filing a DV petition against their children's father ('the silver bullet') is the perfect way to get an instantaneous injunction from the court prohibiting the father from seeing his kids. Sadly, it is a fact. The Coalition encourages false allegations, using the children as pawns, as a means of gaining a custody advantage in divorce.

Here is the petition that my daughter's mother filed against me 2 months after our divorce and 4 months after our separation, after her college professor fiancee had just moved into the family home along with his daughter and been introduced to my 5 yr. old daughter as 'her new daddy':

[http://www.nhcustody.org/DV\\_petition.JPG](http://www.nhcustody.org/DV_petition.JPG)

She flat out lied on the petition by saying that we used a 3rd party for visitation transfers and then asked the court to force me to attend a course for batterers or personal counseling. The reason I showed up that day was to pick up my daughter for visitation. My ex set me up and then filed the complaint against me to keep me from coming back to the family home now that she had her new family in place. She never did marry that man who was introduced to my little girl as 'her new daddy' only 4 months after I moved out of the family home and 2 months after we were divorced. But she is on a different husband #3 now.

VAWA funds are enabling these state Coalitions to teach mothers to wield domestic violence complaints as a weapon against their former spouses without risk of redress, just as my daughter's mother did against me. And they are right! It is TRUE that there is no risk to those who commit perjury when filing a domestic violence petition!

At the same time the NH Coalition works very closely with the NH judiciary by 'educating' it as to the fact that false accusations should not result in accountability for the accuser, even when such false allegations of abuse were the very basis for why children have been made fatherless and fathers made childless. Even when allegations of abuse are shown to be fraudulent there is never punishment or sanction meted out by the family courts to the accuser. The above factual explanation is substantially the reason that 75% - 85% of divorces in this country are initiated by mothers...

Frankly, Coalitions around the country are lying to state legislatures and judiciaries from an insider position using VAWA funds and painting the nation's fathers with a broad brush as violent bums. Yet, here are the facts from our very own United States Government showing the truth for many years running about the maltreatment, abuse, and neglect of children and who the perpetrators really are:

[http://www.nhcustody.org/My\\_Homepage\\_Files/child\\_maltreatment.html](http://www.nhcustody.org/My_Homepage_Files/child_maltreatment.html)

Here is a firsthand synopsis of what the NHCADSV is doing in New Hampshire on a daily basis and I guarantee you is going on around this entire country:

[http://www.nhcustody.org/My\\_Homepage\\_Files/NHCADSV\\_reality.html](http://www.nhcustody.org/My_Homepage_Files/NHCADSV_reality.html)

This is a critical national problem that is manifesting in virtually every state, and that is a fact. VAWA's huge amount of funding without proper oversight is literally the fuel being poured on the fire of family destruction in this country and is directly responsible for the Fatherlessness crisis in America today.

I implore you to amend the bill's language to state specifically that:

" STATE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COALITIONS and STATE SEXUAL ASSAULT COALITIONS receiving VAWA funds must not be involved in any manner, including through direct or indirect affiliation of any kind with other organizations, in any legislative lobbying, advertising, or otherwise supporting the endorsement of, or opposition to, any proposed legislation or previously enacted law that does not directly and clearly relate to the prevention of domestic violence. "

Violation of such a provision should result in the violating Coalition losing its funding.

If you must renew VAWA then I also implore you to make it gender neutral in terminology. It is both Unconstitutional and impractical that men should receive none of the benefit of VAWA funding just because they are men. If you look at the true statistics available from our own U.S. government you will find that women commit domestic violence at close to the same rate as men and are even more likely than men to use a weapon during the perpetration of such an act.

Allegations of domestic violence must also be handled in criminal court and not in civil courts. This is the only way that the real perpetrators of such heinous acts will be treated appropriately, and not just receive a slap on the wrist in the form of a restraining order from a

civil court. It is also the only way that false allegations, and the numbers of false allegations are massive in child custody cases due to the advantage (without risk of redress in cases of fraud) gained by the person making such an allegation of abuse, can ever be redressed by the court through punishment of the false accuser. The courts refuse to hold those guilty of making false allegations of domestic violence accountable at present, and will continue to do so if domestic violence remains a civil matter.

The existing civil manner of handling domestic violence allegations is the worst of both worlds. There are no protections afforded to those who are fraudulently accused, and indeed before they even know what has happened fathers all over this country, without due process, are having restraining orders issued as injunctions against them seeing their own children. Most times fathers are not even notified that an order (an injunction against them seeing their own children, frequently) has even been sought until they are served by the police and ejected from their homes with nothing more than the clothes on their back. Additionally, there is no real protection afforded those victims who are actually suffering at the hands of an abuser who is not prosecuted criminally, but is instead allowed to walk away from a civil court only to break a restraining order and commit more abuse directed at the victim.

If you want to see what is being done to fathers and their children all over this country using VAWA funds then please have a look here at the 1<sup>st</sup> volume of 'Father's Without Rights, Babies For Profit':

<http://www.nhcustody.org/video/FathersWithoutRights567.wmv>

American politicians have claimed for a long time to care about family values and given much lip service to fixing the Fatherlessness problem in America. The truth is that much of the root of the problem is indeed the misuse and abuse of VAWA funds nationally by state-based Coalitions who are literally lying to state legislatures and judiciaries by providing them with skewed and/or false data, and convincing them that no action should be brought against false accusers of domestic violence even when such heinous claims result in an injunction against children having access to their fathers.

Is it any wonder that these same Coalitions who are adamant about stereotyping fathers across the board as violent are misusing VAWA funds to lobby against Fatherhood in general by opposing equal parenting and child support reform around the country as well?

The political lip service is very obvious now, and the VAWA abuses (which are very real \*actual\* abuses) are encouraging and facilitating the breakdown of the American family and the total abrogation of Constitutional rights in our country, including the Constitutional right to parent one's own children.

Rome is burning beneath us and you will only pour more fuel on the flames if you don't fix VAWA.

Very Sincerely,

Marc Snider  
Merrimack, NH