

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am Frank Glandorf, a parent and resident of Hamilton County. I oppose Senate Bill 174 (SB 174).

My primary concern is the lack of accountability surrounding child custody evaluations, a problem which SB 174 fails to address and, in fact, exacerbates.

## **Ambiguity and Accountability in Evaluations**

Section 3109.0439 of SB 174 states:

*The court may order a parent, legal custodian, or a child to submit to any of the following:*

*(C) The custody evaluation as described in the Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio.*

This grants the court the power to order a custody evaluation. While the reference to the [Rules of Superintendence](#) presumably points to **Sup.R. 91**, which establishes standards for evaluators, **SB 174 should explicitly state which rule is intended to eliminate ambiguity.**

Sup.R 91.03(A) establishes a measure of custody evaluator accountability.

*(A) Establish a process for submitting in electronic format or hard copy comments and complaints regarding the performance of custody evaluators appointed by the court and for considering such comments and complaints.*

However these standards are not being implemented effectively. Sup.R. 91 was issued over three years ago, yet in Hamilton County, we are still waiting for custody evaluator accountability.

## **The Danger of Complete Discretion**

This failure of accountability is directly contradicted by another section of the proposed bill:

*Sec. 3109.0412. The court shall have complete discretion over the approval of a parenting plan.*

Granting courts "complete discretion" over parenting plans while they are failing to enforce the basic accountability measures of existing court rules (Sup.R. 91) is unacceptable. Given the reliance courts place on the findings of professional custody evaluators, it is vital that compliance with Sup.R 91 is assured.

At present, there is little evidence of this compliance, and SB 174 does nothing to fix this problem. I urge the Committee to table SB 174.

Frank Glandorf Hamilton County Resident