

October 15th, 2020

VIA EMAIL

The Standing Committee of Justice Policy
Thushitha Kobikrishna (Committee Clerk)
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To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Written Submission (Proposed Amendment)
Committee Business: *Moving Ontario Family Law Forward Act, 2020* ('the Act')
Public Hearing Dates: October 12, 14, and 15th, 2020 (Virtual)

In my letter of October 9th, 2020 to the Standing Committee I expressed my views on the incorporation of a rebuttable presumption that equal shared parenting is in the best interests of children, unless those interests would be substantially enhanced by some other parenting plan.

After reviewing the Act, I would propose two Amendments to section 20 in order to incorporate the above presumption. More specifically:

- i. Amend section **20** (1) as follows:

20 (1) Except as otherwise provided in this Part, a child's parents are equally entitled to decision-making responsibility with respect to the child and in the absence of any other evidence, equal decision-making is presumed to be in the best interest of the child; and

- ii. Insert the following at **20** (5) and amend the other sub-sections accordingly:

Equal Entitlement to Parenting Time

20 (5) Except as otherwise provided in this Part, a child's parents are entitled to equal parenting time with respect to the child and in the absence of any other evidence, equal parenting time is presumed to be in the best interest of the child

Thank you,

Scott Graham