

[DATE], 2015

The Honorable Hannah Beth Jackson  
Chair, CA Senate Judiciary Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2032  
Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: SB 594 – Child Custody (SUPPORT)**

Dear Senator Jackson:

I am writing to register my support for Senate Bill (SB) 594, legislation that will require all child custody evaluators and investigators to follow the state-mandated requirements governing child custody evaluations and investigations when preparing such reports to be presented to the trial courts.

State-mandated uniform standards of practice and procedure designed to ensure the safety of families in general, and domestic violence and child sexual abuse victims in particular, are not always being fully implemented, often due to confusion or lack of knowledge about those standards. This can result in a lack of uniform application of the law by the courts, which have no efficient way to determine whether child custody professionals providing reports to them are aware of and have complied with state-mandated practices and procedures. Improperly prepared reports pose great risks to the safety of families and children, as they are routinely utilized as powerful evidence bearing on the best interest of the children. Because an estimated 85% of California family court litigants are self-represented, they are unable to mount legal challenges to child custody reports that are not conducted properly.

If passed, SB 594 would improve child safety and court efficiency by promoting uniform and complete investigations that comply with mandatory minimum standards of practice.

For these important reasons, I strongly support SB 594, and I urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to pass the bill in its current form.

Sincerely,

[NAME]  
[TITLE – if appropriate]

cc: Senators, Senate Committee on Judiciary