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3/21/18

The Honorable Representative Grace Napolitano  
4401 Santa Anita Ave, Suite 201  
El Monte, CA 91731

Dear Representative Napolitano,

As a constituent from La Verne, I am asking for your help by considering providing us with a letter of support to the Board of Directors for the American Psychological Association, asking them to meet with parent representatives and child advocates to receive a Petition to the APA signed by over 17,000 parents regarding child custody reforms to the family courts. We are hoping to meet with representatives of the APA Board of Directors during their June 8-12 Board of Directors meeting in Washington, D.C. this year.

We are seeking the help of the APA in securing professionally knowledgeable and competent assessment, diagnosis, and treatment for children and families suffering through “parental alienation” in high-conflict divorce. The family pathology of “parental alienation” is estimated to destroy over 22 million families in the United States alone (Harman, Leder-Elder, & Biringen, 2016).<sup>1</sup>

Children are not weapons to be used in divorce. Using the children as a weapon of revenge in the spousal conflict surrounding divorce destroys the healthy and normal-range development of the child. Intentionally destroying the child’s bonds of love and affection with the other parent to use that child as a weapon of revenge in the spousal conflict is child abuse, psychological child abuse (DSM-5: V995.51 Child Psychological Abuse, Confirmed).

On June 6-9<sup>th</sup>, I will be traveling to the offices of the American Psychological Association in Washington, D.C. along with two colleagues, Wendy Perry – a leader in parent advocacy to end “parental alienation” and bring reform to the family courts surrounding child custody decision-making, and Rod McCall – who tragically lost his son to a murder-suicide by the child’s mother which was caused by this pathology, a tragedy written about in his book, *For Love of Eryk*. We will be delivering a Petition to the APA signed by over 17,000 parents, asking for the help of the APA in affirming its support for professional knowledge, competence, and defined standards of professional practice (Change.org: search term “parental alienation”).

The Board of Directors for the APA is also meeting during this period (June 8-12) in Washington, D.C. We are asking for a letter of support from the office of Representative Napolitano to the Board of Directors of the APA, urging them to schedule a meeting with us to receive the Petition to the APA and hear the pleas of parents for help in solving the devastating attachment-related family pathology of “parental alienation.”

Thank you, Representative Napolitano, for considering our request for help.



Craig Childress, Psy.D.  
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<sup>1</sup> Harman, J.J., Leder-Elder, S., & Biringen, Z. (2016). Prevalence of parental alienation drawn from a representative poll. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 66, 62-66.

Suggesting wording for a letter of support to the Board of Directors of the American Psychological Association:

BoD of the APA,

We are asking you to schedule a meeting with representatives of families whose lives, and the lives of their children, have been destroyed by the family pathology of “parental alienation” surrounding high-conflict divorce and child custody decision-making in the family courts.

Parent and professional representatives for these families will be coming to Washington, D.C. from June 6-9 to present a Petition to the APA signed by over 17,000 parents. They are seeking the help of the American Psychological Association in affirming its standards of professional practice requiring professional-level knowledge and competence in the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of all children and families.

We are asking that you accept this opportunity to meet directly with these child and family advocates to receive the Petition to the APA, and hear their request for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Representative Napolitano