

Proclaiming April 25, 2015 Parental Alienation Awareness Day In Ulster County

Referred to: The Public Health and Social Services Committee (Chairman Lopez and Legislators Allen, Belfiglio, Litts and Provenzano)

Legislator Mary Wawro offers the following:

WHEREAS, parental alienation occurs when a conflicted family dynamic forces a child to choose sides and changes a previously good relationship with a now rejected parent; and

WHEREAS, the act of parental alienation can result in a child becoming focused on the criticisms of the rejected parent, expressing hatred toward the rejected parent and/or their side of the family, refusing to spend time, visit or communicate with the rejected parent, holding negative beliefs about the rejected parent that are inconsequential, exaggerated, or unfounded in reality, or lacking the capacity to feel guilty about inconsiderate or cruel behaviors toward the rejected parent; and

WHEREAS, experts acknowledge frequent and regular contact with both parents is ideal for healthy growth and development of all children; and

WHEREAS, judicial and human service agencies should take expeditious action to assess and protect the needs of children to avoid child's loss of contact with a parent due to parental alienation; and

WHEREAS, community awareness and education can provide the power to end the emotional abuse of children that are caught in the crossfire of parents that they love; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature hereby proclaims Saturday, April 25, 2015 as Parental Alienation Awareness Day in Ulster County and urges all agencies and residents of Ulster County to assist in raising the awareness that children maintain the right and ability to love and be loved by both parents; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to the Ulster County Family Court Judges, the Commissioner of the Ulster County Department of Social Services, the Commissioner of the Ulster County Department of Health and Mental Health, the Executive Director of Court Appointed Special Advocates of Ulster County, the Executive Director of the Ulster County Dispute Resolution Center as well as relevant human service agencies serving Ulster County families effected by parental conflict,

