



*Lisa Hepfner*

Member of Parliament  
Hamilton Mountain



For Immediate Release

**Bill C-223: Keeping Children Safe Act**

Sept. 22, 2025 – Lisa Hepfner, Member of Parliament for Hamilton Mountain, has introduced a Private Member’s Bill, the *Keeping Children Safe Act*, in Parliament as a groundbreaking amendment to the Divorce Act.

Bill C-223 seeks to give children a voice and mitigate the effects of coercive control and domestic violence.

MP Lisa Hepfner heard first-hand testimony from women impacted and worked closely with NAWL (National Association of Women and the Law) in drafting this key legislation, which calls for urgent reform to end the practice of restricting parenting time due to “parental alienation” accusations.

Too often, women choose to stay in an abusive relationship rather than risk losing access to their children. The best interests of the child must be prioritized when there is a risk of family violence.

Nearly 300 organizations across Canada have called for these reforms to the Divorce Act. First reading took place on Sept. 18, 2025.

The full content of the Bill is available [www.parl.ca/legisinfo/en/bill/45-1/c-223](http://www.parl.ca/legisinfo/en/bill/45-1/c-223).

*“The Keeping Children Safe Act requires legal advisors to take family violence into account and changes the existing premise that children are property that must be split equally in the divorce.”*

- Lisa Hepfner, MP for Hamilton Mountain

*“Instead of prioritizing children’s best interests, courts too often focus on enforcing equal parenting rights. This is why law reform is urgently needed: to ensure that decisions about children are guided solely by their safety and well-being, free from myths and stereotypes about family violence.”*

- Suzanne Zaccour, Director of Legal Affairs for NAWL

*“You are doing the work and bringing forth the necessary changes to make the Canadian legal system safer for children, and less discriminatory towards women, and I cannot thank you enough.”*

- Mother accused of parental alienation

**For more information or for an interview request, please contact:**

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