

Good afternoon Senators, and thank you for allowing me to share my story.

My name is Bianca Porter. I am a single mother, a survivor of domestic violence, and someone who has had to put her life on hold to keep fighting through a legal process that, to this day—nearly three years later—is still not over.

In May of 2022, I filed for divorce from my ex-husband after years of abuse. I was granted a protection order due to his violent behavior, which he violated. He was convicted of both violating that protection order and of domestic violence in Adams County.

Despite that history, my ex-husband sought spousal maintenance from me. Thankfully, the judge in our case recognized the deeply harmful impact this would have and ruled that requiring me to financially support my abuser would be “improper and psychologically damaging.” That decision gave me a moment of relief, a sense that the system understood the reality survivors face.

But now, nearly three years after filing, I’m still stuck in litigation—because my ex-husband has appealed the ruling. His argument? That the judge wasn’t allowed to consider the abuse at all. He claims that because Colorado is a no-fault divorce state, the court had no right to acknowledge the trauma I endured.

This appeal is not just about maintenance—it’s a continuation of control. This legal process has become yet another way for my ex-husband to exert power over me. He is exploiting the process to drain my financial resources, my time, and my emotional well-being. It’s retraumatizing. And it’s happening through a system that should be protecting survivors.

That’s why I am speaking in full support of **Senate Bill 25-116**.

This bill would make it crystal clear that judges *can* and *should* consider the presence of domestic violence when determining spousal maintenance. It would ensure that survivors like me are not forced to subsidize the lives of the very people who harmed us. And it would prevent abusers from using the legal system as yet another tool for coercion.

Because of this ongoing appeal, I have faced years of financial and emotional distress. As a single mother, I’ve had to spend money on legal fees instead of on my 12-year-old daughter’s needs and future. I’ve lost sleep, time, and stability. I have had to push pause on rebuilding my life—because this system still allows my abuser to keep dragging me back into court.

If SB25-116 had already been in place, this appeal would likely never have happened. The law would have supported the judge’s decision and protected me—*fully and clearly*. Instead, I continue to live in limbo.

Please understand: this bill is not just about legal language. It’s about whether survivors are forced to carry the burden—emotionally and financially—of their abuser’s actions. It’s about whether single mothers like me get to move forward, provide for their children, and find peace.

I urge you to pass SB25-116. For those still trapped in the cycle. For those who’ve escaped but are still being pulled back. And for the next woman who has the courage to say, “Enough.”

Thank you for listening—and for protecting those of us who have already endured so much.

