

March 9, 2020

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB157**  
**OLETHA FAUST-GOUDEAU**

The House on Judiciary Committee:

Chairman: Representative Fred Patton, Vice Chairman: Representative Bradley Ralph, Ranking Minority Member: Representative John Carmichael

Good Morning Mr. Chairman and other distinguished Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB157.

One benefit of shared parenting is by keeping a family in touch even when they cannot all be together physically. Staying in touch, even when apart, helps parents and kids to maintain relationships and lessen the emotional stress of being apart. If done right, the benefits of shared parenting can spread across the entire family. One way that these benefits are shared is by direct interactions between both parents and their children. When the relationship ends and parents move into separate homes, children sometimes fear that they will lose touch with the parent who moves out or that their relationship will never be the same again. Allowing kids to spend time in both of their parents' homes will benefit kids in helping them to feel less like they are forced to take sides. It will also help kids to understand that they were not abandoned by either of their parents after they split.

Shared parenting time allows for children to continue cultivating relationships with each of their parents individually. A parenting time arrangement will be an important piece that dictates the amount of time each parent spends with their kids. A 50/50 parenting time plan will allocate each parent with equal time. No matter what the parenting agreement becomes, parents and kids can still be in touch with each other when they are not together via phone, text, email or even webcam.

Thank you for your time and attention. I urge you to support SB157.

Sincerely,

*Oletha Faust-Goudeau*

Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau