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Richard Hilderbrand
Senator, 13th District

March 6, 2020

Testimony in Support of SB 157 – AN ACT concerning family law; relating to temporary parenting plans

House Committee on Judiciary

Honorable Chair – Fred Patton

Vice Chair – Bradley Ralph

Ranking Minority – John Carmichael

Honorable Committee Members

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and esteemed members of the Committee! Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak in support of SB 157 today.

The process of a divorce is never easy, and it is often filled with a lot of raw emotion. In the majority of divorces, you will have two loving parents, whom have a close relationship with their children. This close relationship that both parents have with their children too often changes the moment the plaintiff of the divorce has been served with their temporary orders for the divorce.

Imagine if you will the following scenario: Today is Monday, March 9, 2020. You and your spouse of several years have been going through some very difficult times in your marriage. You and your spouse have 3 children, whom you both love and are equally close too. You dropped your three kids off at school before coming to work, because that is what you have been doing since they first started school. You are walking out of the door of your office when someone greets you by your name and hands you some papers. Upon reading the papers you discovered that you have just been served with your divorce papers. Upon reading those papers you also discover that you have temporary custody orders saying that you will not be able to see your children again until Friday March 20, 2020, and then two weekends a month until your divorce is finalized. You don't have the opportunity to give your kids a hug, tell them that you love them, or to explain to them why you will no longer be able to drop them off at school, pick them up after school, or take them to ball practice.

Now imagine how those 3 children are feeling. A parent they were used to being there for them seven days a week and 365 days a year, is now only in their life for 2 weekends a month. This is why I sponsored and introduced this bill.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Committee for your time and consideration it was an honor to speak before you! I humbly ask that you pass SB 157 favorably out of your committee. I will stand for questioning at the appropriate time.

Thank you,

Senator Richard Hilderbrand

District 13