

March 6, 2019

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB157
TESTIMONY BY SENATOR OLETHA FAUST-GOUDEAU

The Senate on Judiciary Committee:

Chair: Senator Rick Wilborn Vice-Chair: Senator Eric Rucker Ranking Minority Member: Senator Vic Miller, Senator Molly Baumgardner, Senator Elaine Bowers, Senator David Haley, Senator Randall Hardy, Senator Julia Lynn, Senator Mike Peterson, Senator Mary Pilcher-Cook, Senator Dennis Pyle

Good Morning Mr. Chairman and other distinguished Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 157.

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'll 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 the 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 parents spends with their kids. A 50/50 parenting time plan will allocate each parent with equal time. No matter what the parenting time 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 SB-157.

Sincerely,

Oletha Faust-Goudeau

Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau