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Written Testimony to the Kansas State Senate Judiciary Committee

Kansas State Capitol Building, Room 346-S
Topeka, KS 66612

SUPPORT SB 157

Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My wife and I are the proud parents of 5 wonderful children. I've had the opportunity of coaching youth sports in the greater Wichita area. During that time, I engaged with parents; primarily single mothers, who often were frustrated that the fathers of their children weren't fully invested and seemed to have one foot in and one foot out. Many of these mothers would have preferred that the father be all the way invested in their children. So, I addressed many of the fathers and expressed to them the concerns of the mother, and many fathers were able to step up and meet the challenge to work together for the benefit of their children. These mothers and fathers understood the importance of the children having both parents involved in their upbringing. I believe that co-parenting is the key to giving children the best of both parents. There are things that both parents bring to the table that enhance the experience for their children and assist with providing a stable, nurturing environment. I have had the opportunity and privilege to work with fathers and families in Sedgwick County Kansas for the past 6 years, through a Department for Children and Families (DCF) fatherhood initiative grant. Our program has seen many fathers struggle to have access to their children; even when parenting plans have been established by the family courts. We've also witnessed many fathers get reconnected and engaged with their children; and enhance their children's experience through connecting with step parents and siblings. Kansas has a motto about "Strengthening and Promoting Healthy Families" and I believe that this bill is in line with that motto. I would like to thank Senators Wagle and Longbine for supporting this bill and ask that committee members would please support SB 157.

Respectfully,



Ishaku Maikori