

Garrett Tacha
407 W. 14th St.
Goodland, KS 67735
785-657-7398
garretttacha08@gmail.com

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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,

I began the divorce process with my ex-wife in October of 2017 and throughout this process, I have been so grateful to hear that SB 157 has been entered in as an option. Like many court cases, a good deal of mud is thrown around in the courtroom, but no evidence is displayed. This bill would help minimize the mud-slinging. We all understand that it is the court's responsibility to ensure the safety and best interest of the children, but I believe we also need to strive to keep these children as family oriented as possible. After all, both the mother and father made these children and the ultimate goal should be to keep these children as close to the father as we do with the mother. Children need both parents and if we can work towards a shared parenting law, a law that sets the standards, our children will greatly benefit from it.

I won't provide much detail, but I wanted to share some of my story with you today. The outcome of my court hearing in 2017 left me with severe limitations in regards to parenting time; and I live less than a mile from my children. No evidence was displayed, but the accusations that I faced in the courtroom were over-bearing. Now, 16 months later, three mediation sessions later (which shows and concludes through court documents that both parents are fit and loving to share equal custody), and one pending future court hearing, I now have enough evidence to prove all accusations thrown in the courtroom were in fact lies. If we had a presumption of equal shared parenting time **unless** there is evidence supporting why one parent shouldn't be granted equal time, I wouldn't have had to take extreme measures to prove my worth as a father. If we had a shared parenting law, our children win. Our children will be able to still spend quality time with each parent.

It's not just what parents want; it's what grandparents want, cousins, aunts, uncles...they all strive to see my children more and they all strive and support me in this cause. They want this bill as much as I do. Because my children are worth it.

Thank you for taking the time to read this today and a special thank you to Senators Wagle and Longbine for supporting this bill. To the committee, please support this bill. We as parents, and our children, need this.

Respectfully,

Garrett Tacha

