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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,

When I was in 6th grade my dad filed for divorce. My mom was a stay at home mom and Dad was an ER doctor. They had been together for 26 years and I was the youngest of 6. Life was great. I went with a friend on a spring break trip, only to come home to my Dad gone.

Obviously that was a tough time trying to understand it all. From 6th grade till I was a senior in high school, my mom and her side of the family basically brainwashed me into believing he was a horrible person. I fell for it all.

My dad fought for me in court, he wanted to spend time with me. But it was too late, my mom and her side of the family already had me in the palm of their hands. The judge pulled me into his office during court and asked me what I wanted, if I wanted to spend time with my dad, a perfectly fit Dad who loved his son but had fallen out of love with his mom. I told the judge "no", in fear of how my mom and her side would treat me.

I'm here to tell you as a 30 year old man, losing my dad at the age of 11 is my biggest regret in life. I had no clue what I was saying to that judge. But I know now that I clearly NEEDED my dad. I needed his love and his direction. But most importantly I needed his time, and that time is something him and I will never get back, all we can do now is live for today and the future and continue building our relationship.

I'm in a similar predicament now. I legally get to see my son every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Sunday from 6-8. I work 8-4 Monday-Thursday and 8-1 on Friday. I pay my bills on time, I pay my taxes, I obey the law, and most importantly, I love my son more than he could ever imagine and desperately want to give him the life and time that was taken from my dad and I. I only see my life, my son, 6 hours a week.

I ask that you support us in our movement to help fathers who are deserving and fit, to be given fair time with their child.

I'm living proof that the child needs his/her father just as much as the father needs his child.

Thank you.

Jared Cosens