

Jarod Howard  
1703 N. Murray St  
Wichita, Ks. 67212  
8132105930  
Jarod.howard78@gmail.com

25 February 2019

**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,

Please seriously consider a top-down directed, initial default equal parenting solution. I believe the constant battle continually tears down all parties involved emotionally and financially, with exception of the legal consultants. Complications happen in relationships, in my relationship it's the actions after the divorce that hurts the most.

In my case, the initial court approved paperwork stated, "Every other weekend unless both parents agree". Which means, if she didn't want to give them to me, then she legally could prevent me from seeing my own children. This statement alone hurt me so bad, but I'm thankful she didn't hold to it. She worked nights and gave them to me so I could be a father and she doesn't have to pay for child care. For many months I paid her for all the days of the month, with exception of my 4 days I legally had them. It wasn't until I had to hire a new costly attorney (increasing debt) that I was able to get time adjusted. I was given my kids based off a schedule she developed (her work schedule), six days for me and eight for her (2,2,4,6).

Bi-weekly, all year, I ask for the 7<sup>th</sup> and equal day, it's hit and miss if she lets me have them. It's got to the point that the kids are asking, hoping, waiting days for her reply and that's not fair. She will sometimes deny us and say that she misses them. My reply is typically, "You miss them after four days with me, imagine how I feel after your six days with them or the months you moved them home without me". End of conversation. It hurts when they return back to me after six days with her and start calling me, "mom". It hurts when I have to wait for a response on whether I can spend more time with my own boys! The torment that I go through on a weekly bases is heartbreaking and exhausting.

If dads are less important, then why have so many principles tried to recruit me as a para-educator, and the main theme was that their kids need a positive male influence. I'm good enough to mold, mentor, and educate hundreds of children, but not worthy of equal time with my own two kids. I must say, I was blinded by the equality we strived so hard for while serving in our nation's military.

I would personally like to send a heart felt thank you to senators Wagle and Longbine for supporting this bill. From a dispirit father starting his 50/50 fight, I'm asking the committee members, "Why can't I spend equal time with my children?" I encourage all to support this bill. Thank you!

Respectfully,  
Jarod Howard