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Testimony to the Kansas State Senate Judiciary Committee

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

RE: SUPPORT SB 157

Chairman Wilborn and Members of the Committee,

I would like to convey my support for SB 157 and encourage you to vote for this proposed bill. As a father and stepfather with experience in a former heated custody battle, I believe this bill is not only logical but is the right thing for most children and parents involved in a custody situation. Unless there is an agreed upon plan or another legitimate reason that a father should not be given 50% custody, that should be the starting point. Our entire justice system is based upon innocent until proven guilty. This practice of awarding the majority of the custody to the mother is not only outdated but also damaging to the children. So, if there isn't a reason to keep the children from the father most of the time, then why are we and why have we been? A mothers' rights to their children are no more important than the fathers are and vice versa. It takes two parents to make a child and the children should have equal rights to be with each parent. I could elaborate much further on my own situation if time allowed, but I assure you that this is the right thing to do.

Please support SB 157.

Sincerely,
Greg Gathers