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March 6, 2020

Senate Judiciary Committee  
Kansas State Capitol  
300 S.W. Tenth Street, Rm 187-N  
Topeka, KS 66612

Re: Opposition to SB 157

Dear Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony to your committee concerning Senate Bill 157. I greatly appreciate your consideration of the same. My name is Kimberly K. Bonifas and I am partner at Morris, Laing, Evans Brock & Kennedy Chtd. I am a Family Law attorney in my eighteenth year of practice in Kansas and I am a former Chair of the Family Law Committee of the Wichita Bar Association.

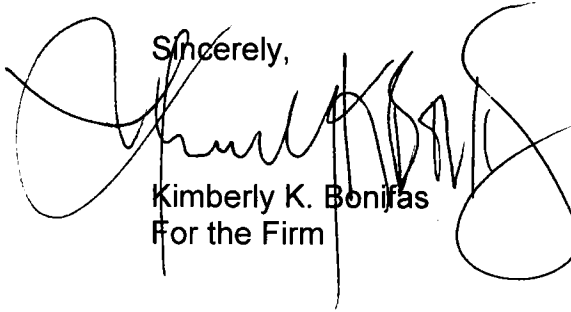
I have had the opportunity to review this bill and wanted to send you my thoughts in opposition to the same. This bill assumes that Temporary Parenting Plans are simply a "one-size-fits-all" for everyone. It takes a cookie-cutter approach instead of looking at the case specific facts and circumstances of individuals and families. Just as in-tact families are not all the same, neither are divorced families. When a family is about to split, this is a crucial time for children and they deserve far more from all of us. I can tell you from experience that this bill is not the correct approach.

When I file a new case, I spend significant time going over the statutory factors with clients. I also spend time on how to address the needs of each family. Each family is unique. Not all circumstances are the same. Not all moms are the same. Not all dads are the same. Not all children are the same, and we need to do what is best for them not what is easiest. There are important circumstances beyond the one listed in the bill such as alcohol, drugs, mental health problems, special needs children, parents and children with illness, stay-at-home parents, parents who travel for work, and families in different towns, states and countries.

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The default should always be doing what is best for each child in their unique circumstances. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kimberly K. Bonifas', written over the typed name below.

Kimberly K. Bonifas  
For the Firm

KKB/rmh  
Enclosures

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