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Written Testimony to the Kansas State Judiciary Committee
Kansas State Capitol Building, Room 346-S
Topeka, KS 66612

SUPPORT SB 157

Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

In 2007, the court with the support of a non-licensed for profit Case Manager, determined that my children were going to be with their dad forty-nine percent of the time, versus what was formerly one hundred percent of the time. That percentage was and remains a mere two percent less than the other parent, yet the court ordered child support, insurance payment(s) and medical expense payments ordered by the court are not reflective of the parenting time set at of forty-nine percent. The current method to set parenting time is intrinsically set up to create disparity, so that one adult party 'wins' and the party 'looses.'

The parent with the higher percentage of parenting time, the 'riches' are awarded, and the parent with less parenting time, receives the 'spoils'. An unequal percentage of parenting time gives cause for one parent to seek financial gain, with the ultimate cost being less and overall loss of time with the other parent. The current method makes 'time' the most valued commodity for monetary reasons versus time the most valued factor in and of itself for parent – child(ren) relationships.

Any time a parent has with a child if not at 100% is not adequate. A child(ren) benefits from time with each parent and the extended family unit of that parent. A child(ren)'s sense of self is defined not only by parental influences, yet also by the family tree that supports the parent(s) raising the child(ren) in the community. A common sense and non-adversarial approach that is a win win for biological parents, the extended family, and most importantly for the child(ren) involved is the Shared Parenting, 50/50, approach.

The Shared Parenting approach is consistent with the term and what family court promotes in 'co-parenting', equal time, equally shared responsibility in nurturing, educating, disciplining, developing and raising a child(ren). The child(ren) witness and learn that each parent remains committed to the decision of loving, caring and providing a home in the community. The child(ren) grows in confidence, and trust, witnessing each parent's ability to provide and maintain a home, and communicate with one another for the best interest of the child(ren).

A Shared Parenting plan is a common sense approach that is gaining support: Missouri 2016 HB 1550, Kentucky 2017 HB492, 2018 HB528, Virginia 2018 HB 1351; Alaska, Arizona and Oklahoma have statutes that promote and support Shared Parenting. In addition, multiple distinguished professionals (i.e. Dr. Richard Warshak, PhD, Dr. Linda Nielsen, Dr. Miller and Gottlieb, Dr. Jennifer Haman) have completed

research and have published articles citing the benefits of Shared Parenting. Again, it's a common sense approach that promotes healthy parenting and family and the time is NOW for Kansas to make a commitment to the children involved in Family Court.

Lastly, a Thank You to Kansas Senators Wagle and Longbine for making the decision to support the Share Parenting bill, SB 157, and leading Kansas to an improved method of establish parenting time.

Committee members, please review, discuss, ask questions, yet in the end, please accept the leadership and guidance of Senators Wagle and Longbine and support SB 157 Shared Parenting.

Respectfully,

David A. Padilla