

TESTIMONY OF DAVID P. SCHNEIDER
ON SB 157
KANSAS HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
MARCH 9, 2020

My name is David Schneider. I am a resident of Kansas, and a registered lobbyist for Convention of States Action. My testimony today is as an individual, and more importantly as a single dad.

I was divorced in the year 2010 in the state of Wisconsin. Wisconsin had a presumption of shared parenting. Despite my ex-wife residing in Kansas and I in Wisconsin at the time of divorce, the state granted me shared placement. We worked together on a parenting plan that made the most of our difficult situation. It was worked out from a position that time with mom and dad was equally very important.

Time in the summer and breaks did not automatically revert to me, but time during the school year did not automatically revert to my ex-wife either. Starting from a shared placement worked best for the relationships of both parents.

In 2013, I moved back to Kansas, 6 blocks from where my ex-wife resided with my children. Since I had moved to Kansas, our case was petitioned to be moved to Kansas courts when I requested a change in placement schedule to 50/50 to reflect our shared placement and new proximity to each other.

My ex-wife hired an attorney and fought in court my effort to continue my roll in my children's lives. My sacrifice to give up a career and move to a small town in Kansas certainly helped in my case, but since Kansas does not have a position of presumed equal placement, I had to fight to keep my equal status in court.

Ultimately, I prevailed with 50/50 placement, but many dads do not have the resources I was able to muster in my case. I see it too often; dads give up because of the burden of court costs and lawyers fees. We need to be encouraging dads to stay in the picture for their children, and not incentivizing them to check out.

I feel that if Wisconsin had not had a starting place of equal placement in their temporary orders and in final placement, I would have lost all my relationships with my children.

I urge you to pass SB 157 and come at parenting from an equal standpoint.

Thank you.