

Official Written Testimony
In Support of 2019 SB157
Parenting Time; Presumption in Court Determinations

Senate Committee on Judiciary
March 7, 2019

Brian J. Mull
Wichita, Kansas

Chairman Wilborn and Members of the Committee,

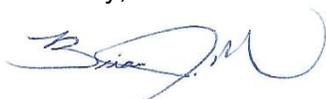
Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony in support of SB157. My name is Brian Mull. I'm an engineer and former shared residential parent from Wichita. As someone who's been awarded shared residency, it may seem that the current system worked in my favor and I should be pleased. So why did I feel compelled to submit my testimony? Because I can't morally tell you our current system works for Kansas children. Over the past 20 years, I've spent countless hours reading statutes, guidelines, case law, filing motions, protection from stalking orders, subpoenas, and affidavits. Why wouldn't I just hire an attorney to handle all this for me? Because nearly every attorney I talked with was more than willing to take my money but questioned my motives because of child support, and informed me that judges rarely order shared residency. I decided on options strictly to keep my case out of court not only to avoid the emotionally taxing trial, but to avoid the judge. Not all judges are biased, but I had to make a decision based on that assumption.

After taking matters into my own hands I eventually won shared custody and it was some of the best news I've ever received. But, along the way I learned too much. I learned how defunct and out of touch our current laws and guidelines really are. And to be quite honest I learned of many technical errors that are applied to Kansas families every day without question. In 2010 I first vocalized my concerns with the child support guidelines. In 2012, the 80/20 rule for shared residency was abolished and replaced by the Equal Parenting Time Formula (EPT Formula). In 2014 I was appointed by the Supreme Court to the child support guidelines advisory committee for a four year term. Since my son reached the age of 18, I no longer meet the Supreme Court qualifications to reside on the child support committee. Over the past decade I've submitted numerous technical analyses providing insight on the inner workings of the child support guidelines. Now, I write software for attorneys across Kansas to use to calculate child support.

We, as Kansas parents, rely on experts within our government, councils and committees to work hard to ensure that our children's best interests are maintained and that the system works for everyone. I suppose it begs the question; if that plan was working well, why are we all here today? I hope you agree this is much more than the message sold by opponents which is we are just a group of parents wishing for a better outcome in our case. I have nothing to gain or lose by standing here today. But, just like all of you, I hold my-self to a higher moral standard and simply want to help improve the lives of the next generation if I can. I refuse to watch more Kansas families get steamrolled by our obsolete system.

I ask you all to make the best decision for future Kansas children. That decision is to support SB 157.

Sincerely,



Brian Mull