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Written Testimony to the Kansas State Senate Judiciary Committee

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

SUPPORT SB 157

Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I would like to first of thank you all for taking the time and consideration to hearing my story. I had my first baby boy at the age of 21 years old. Due to an unhealthy relationship between the mother and myself we decided to split up when our baby was only 10 months old. Not being allowed to see my son on a daily basis has in fact been the hardest thing I have ever had to go thru in life. I wasn't allowed to see him for the first couple weeks after separation by his mother. It was until we started the process of child custody that she would let me see him for 15-30 minutes at a time. Court ordered mediation to try and work something out but that didn't get us anywhere. So, we went up against a judge who only gave me visitation time every other weekend and a couple hours every Tuesday evening. A couple years went by and I requested for a modification to our child custody. Second time went by and no changes were done. I then got married to my current wife and decided to give it a third try and see if I could at least get summer time with my son. I was granted only every other week during the summer.

I have always been there for my son regardless of all the struggles and sleepless nights of not being able to spend enough time with him. I as a father believe it's very important to be part of your child's life in order for them to feel supported and know that they could count with both parents regardless if they are together or separated. Every child should be able to spend the same quality of time with both parents and be able to enjoy and learn everything they can from each one of them. Only being able to spend time with a child during every other weekend really does not give a Father enough time to do a whole lot of activities with your child. It breaks my heart when my son tells me Sunday afternoon "Dad why do I have to leave so soon." I try my hardest to be part of my child's life as much as possible. I make sure to be at every school activity and any sport he may be involved in. I could feel how happy it makes him to see me present at his activities. I want to be able to make more memories with him. A child's childhood needs to be full of great memories of both parents because they only live one childhood.

To conclude my testimony, I would like to once again thank you all for your time as well as senators Wagle and Longbine for supporting this bill. I would like to ask the committee members to please support this bill.

Respectfully,

Cesar A Torres