

Written Testimony in support of SB157.

Ways in which children would benefit from equal shared parenting:

1. Children would be able to bond and stay bonded with both parents thus avoiding a lifetime of struggling with trust issues.
2. Half siblings would be able to spend as much time as possible with each other, thus keeping their family bonds intact.
3. Parents would have a more difficult time alienating the other parent, if that is their tendency. Alienation is not just against the other parent but against the other parent's extended family ie. grandparents, cousins, half siblings, etc. The more family a child has to love them the more secure they are.
4. Child support payments would be reduced or preferably eliminated so that the paying parent would not be reduced to poverty, bankruptcy and food banks while the receiving parent has money to spare – often for lawyer costs. This puts one parent at a severe disadvantage to the other parent in the eyes of the children and jeopardizes family harmony.
5. Parents would be compelled to get along and if they couldn't on their own they would be able to with mediation. (Of course the courts would have to enforce this and not allow a parent to quit when the going gets difficult or they don't get their way.) Thus the children would see their parents as role models working together for their (the children's) good.
6. There is research that shows it is becoming an epidemic in this country for one parent to falsely cry child abuse on the other parent, for the purpose of receiving full custody, child support and the ability to alienate the other parent and their extended family. No judge should rule against a parent on accusations that are not supported with hard evidence. Possibly culminating in mental health tests on the accuser to look for narcissistic and borderline personality disordered traits. To do anything less is putting the child in an unhealthy situation that can have serious consequences for the child's mental health. I sincerely hope you take the time to read this link.
<http://www.targetedparent.com/blog/2016/2/22/the-silver-bullet>

We are grandparents on the sidelines of a custody case. I see the actions of the court severely damaging this family rather than helping to mend it. One parent continually puts the other on the defensive in court purely on hearsay. False abuse accusations have been filed and taken for truth, without any hard evidence. Parental alienation is occurring, as it has been nearly 1.5 years since the children had any contact with the allegedly abusive parent.

Oftentimes one parent is a better parent than another and the parent with less parenting skills feels threatened by the love shown by the child to the other parent. Because of this lies and accusations occur to get the child for themselves. With the presumption of equal shared parenting, both parents must be listened to in a court of law, not just the accusing one. A parent should be innocent until proven guilty,

not guilty and having to prove their innocence on hearsay by the louder parent.
There should be inclusion of solid facts not hearsay.

Finally, allowing a child equal contact with both parents, as in the presumption of shared parenting in SB157, will help to curb parental alienation.

Please support SB157 for the betterment of Kansas families.

Sincerely,

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