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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,

My name is Kelly Kneisler and I have a son Ben, who is 14 years old. I've been a part time dad since Ben was 2.5 years old. I'm here today to explain my testimony with my Representative about Shared Parenting.

It's been a struggle to have time with my son for 12 years. My time with him has been 1.5 hours on Wednesday, and every other weekend, which was subject to change, depending on what the other parent had planned. I'm sure other single parents have had the same frustration and disappointment. Even though we have a court document that lines out a schedule, it's rarely followed. I've asked for more time, but usually don't win.

I want to show and teach my son everything I've learned in my life, but my bonding time with him is very limited. So you hit the highlights and work through it. I'm trying to stress responsibility to him, focus on goals at hand and building drive. Our current project together is building a 51 Chevy truck from the frame up. He enjoys working on it, but again, our time is limited. We hope to have it done by the time he's old enough for prom. My son has a step dad, but his teachings are different than mine. Since I'm his biological father, I feel I would like the opportunity to guide him through life with my values.

There is more to the story, but my story is one among many. I'm delighted to see a bill like this to help those single parents like me. Thanks to the 17 senators that sponsored the bill, and Senator Wagle and Senator Longbine for supporting it.

Respectfully,

Kelly Kneisler