

Kansas State Senate Judiciary Committee  
Room 346-S  
Topeka, KS 66612

SUPPORT SB 157

Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I would first like to thank you for taking the time to read this. My story isn't like others, but it should be and it can be if everyone could please support SB157. At a football game you will find my kids' dad and I sitting at a game cheering on our children together, at school functions you will see us talking to the teacher together. You will see ten to twenty text messages a day between the two of us discussing grades, kid's upcoming events, or pictures of something the children did. Sound like a normal couple? We are divorced.

We got divorced in 2007 and have had 50/50 share custody. We wanted to make sure our children could have a life with both parents active in their lives and give them the best opportunities that we could in a situation that they didn't ask for.

What kind of arrangement do we have? They are with me one week and their dad the next. We have been doing this since they were 2, 3, and 5. They are now 13, 14, and 17. This arrangement does take two adults that are willing to communicate, but shouldn't parents want to communicate for their children? These are children that two people brought in the world together, it should take both parents to raise them and get a say in how they are raised.

How do we make it work? We try our best to make sure both homes have similar rules. Do we disagree sometimes? Yes, but that is what most parents do even married ones, they may agree on some things and disagree on others. One parent shouldn't decide the future of a child. I know my children wouldn't be where they are today if they didn't have the love and support of both parents. In a perfect world families would stay together, it's not always a perfect world anymore but shouldn't we love our children enough to give the best version of a perfect world where they have two parents that are in their lives full time helping to guide them?

Why does 50/50 matter? I have seen the results of what we have done for our children and I want to make a change for other children in the future. My children are honor roll students, they are busy most nights with a sport of some sort, they go to study groups, or hang out at friend's houses when they aren't having family time with one of their parents. They have great communication skills, they have the ability to adapt in many situations, they are very organized, and they have never had to question the love from a parent.

We are both remarried, to people that don't have 50/50 share custody, this was a bigger adjustment for our new loved ones as we talk a lot and keep each other up to date on everything, where are spouses don't communicate with their ex's. It may seem strange to other people, but shouldn't it seem normal that two people want to make sure their children have the best life possible?

You may be reading this and thinking well these people seem like they can do it because they get along, I left him because we were both complete opposites and couldn't agree on anything in life. If people with completely opposite goals in life can come together and do what's best for their kids, so can others. Make a difference for children of the future and support SB157. Thank you again for your support.

-Kelli Carter, Pittsburg Kansas

