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Testimony to the Kansas House Judiciary Committee  
Kansas State Capitol Building, Room 112-N, Topeka, KS 66612

RE: Support SB 157

My name is Tyler Kauer and I am a stepmother to my husband's 9-year-old daughter and I'm a member of the Kansas Chapter of the National Parents Organization. I am writing to all of you today to urge you to support Senate Bill 157. This bill can protect all Kansas children's relationship with each parent which has been statistically proven to be the best interest of a child.

Throughout my relationship with my husband, I have watched him face many challenges to be an involved and caring father. He currently has the standard minimal time with his daughter even though he has fought tirelessly to get more. But to fight for more, he has to continually fight in court to prove his worth to his child. Throughout this challenge, I've become more aware of the many children within our state that do not have relationships with both of their parents. Parental rights aside, it's a child's right to know and have a relationship with each parent. This bill will help make these rights possible. Assuming 50:50 custody when parents separate or divorce will help make the legal process go more smooth without the conflict of the fight for who is "better" for a child. As well as free up the overburdened family court system of unnecessary cases. Senate Bill 157 will ensure that unfit parents are adequately proven as such before rights can be stripped from the child. Shared parenting is simple. Children get time with and are cared for and loved by both parents. Just because a couple separates or divorces, their relationship with their children should not be severed.

More children succeed when they have both parents involved in their lives. This has been statistically proven and has been done so in Kansas as well. I hope you all can see the importance that this bill is and how it can help ensure the futures of Kansas children. I strongly urge you to please vote yes on Senate Bill 157. Help change the future for Kansas children.

Sincerely,  
Tyler Kauer