

STATE OF KANSAS

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SENATE CHAMBER

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

RANKING MEMBER: FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS
ETHICS, ELECTIONS &
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

MEMBER: COMMERCE

JOINT COMMITTEES

MEMBER: RULES AND REGULATIONS
FOR STATE AGENCIES
CORRECTIONS AND JUVENILE
JUSTICE OVERSIGHT

January 30, 2018

Testimony in Support of SB257

Senate Judiciary Committee

Honorable Chair – Senator Rick Wilborn

Vice Chair – Senator Julia Lynn

Ranking Minority – Senator David Haley

Honorable Committee Members

Good morning Mr. Chairman and other esteemed members of the Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of Senate Bill 257. For many years in the Kansas Legislature, we have talked about supporting families and promoting the involvement of fathers in the lives of their children. Over my years as a public servant, I have supported many pieces of legislation regarding kinship and the placement of children. This is the reason I stand before you today.

The presence of equal shared parenting generates a multitude of benefits toward the wellbeing of our youth. One parent could not be shut out of a child's life by another. Separated couples will have the incentive to cooperate in both the interests of their children and their own parental rights. Separated siblings and half siblings will have the opportunity to spend more time together. There will be substantial decreases in both family discord and strenuous court costs, in which money can be used on the children rather than fighting over them.

The separation of parents is a private matter beyond our control. But we can influence the prosperity of their children by keeping both parents in their lives, preserving the bonds between brothers and sisters, and furthering the fundamental values of family that our state has always stood for. That is why I support Senate Bill 257.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau.