



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 299		DATE: 3/3/2021	
COMMITTEE: Judiciary			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2021 6:12 AM	
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I am in Support of this Bill. Make a lot of sense!



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: BRANDON NORMAN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: brandon.norman.129@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/2/2021 4:50 PM
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The rebuttable presumption of equal parenting time is both necessary and appropriate as an addition to the RSMo. It is the best path forward both for Missouri's children, and parents. It is backed up by the majority of research on the subject. And it is what the vast majority of Missouri's citizens want.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: ELIZABETH LAUBER		PHONE NUMBER: 314-960-2373	
REPRESENTING: NATIONAL PARENTS ORGANIZATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 403 SYMPHONY HILL COURT			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63122
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2021 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JEFF MILLER		PHONE NUMBER: 636-448-4982	
REPRESENTING: AMERICANS FOR EQUAL SHARED PARENTING		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1			
CITY: ST. CHARLES		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63302
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2021 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KAYLEY MCKENNA		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: kmmorganc1s@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2021 12:54 PM
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I have seen firsthand what happens to a child that is not able to see one parent on a consistent basis. My husband fought for four years to finally get some kind of child custody agreement signed so that his son's mother would stop doing whatever she wanted, whenever she wanted. Unfortunately, he only gets to see his 4.5-year-old son on Wednesday evenings and every other weekend. The judge on the case said he would not allow 50/50 custody due to his age. However, the judge did not see what is really going on behind closed doors. All facts need to be looked at. Not just the child's age. Not just that the child has a mother. The child deserves to have a father in his or her life. Especially one that has fought so hard and long to simply be in the child's life. It should not have to be so hard for a father to be in his child's life. Mandating a 50/50 custody agreement would greatly benefit the good, hardworking father's out there that do want to be in their child's life and limit the parental alienation that most judges do not see.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KENNETH D GOINS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: kengoins22@sbcglobal.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2021 6:38 PM

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In support of the bill. 30 years of practicing family law. The bill creates a STARTING POINT where the children are entitled to EQUAL ACCESS TO BOTH PARENTS. This means the starting point is EQUALITY. There is no reasonable argument against a STARTING POINT OF EQUALITY. While the law now talks about meaningful contact. That language means the parties have to start fighting over what that means. Most people in domestic cases represent themselves. The Supreme Court has a "Self Represent" website where most documents are fillable and submissible to the the courts. They know where to start when the LAW tells them very simply where to start. MOST JUDGES ALREADY START THEIR CONVERSATIONS AT 50/50, SO IT SHOULD BE CODIFIED. THERE IS NO PERSON OR ORGANIZATION THAT HAS TESTIFIED AGAINST THIS BILL AND THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LOBBY HAS INDICATED A SUPPORT AND ADDED THE LANGUAGE THEY WANTED. Ken Goins, Esq. 314-443-9915



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LINDA REUTZEL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: lsr1@charter.net	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/2/2021 5:33 PM
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Divorce doesn't end a family, it just rearranges it. We should encourage continued involvement by both parents. Equal shared parenting will lessen the animosity between parents and that is good for children. Children deserve great relationships with both parents and extended family and that can only happen with time spent together. Research supports equal parenting and polling in Missouri shows that Missourians are overwhelmingly in support of shared parenting. This change will benefit children, parents, schools and communities.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER CARTER DOCHLER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-356-4109	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE (MCADSV)		TITLE: PUBLIC POLICY DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 217 OSCAR DRIVE, SUITE A			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: jennc@mocadsv.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/2/2021 3:00 PM	
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MCADSV Priority Legislation for 2021: HB 299The Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (MCADSV) unites Missourians with a shared value that rape and abuse must end, and advances this through education, alliance, research and public policy. MCADSV is a statewide membership association comprised of approximately 120 domestic violence and sexual assault agencies. MCADSV is submitting testimony for informational purposes only regarding the 50/50 child custody provision included in HB 299. Historically, MCADSV opposed 50/50 child custody bills. For many years MCADSV has advocated in opposition to 50/50 child custody bills, informing legislators of the impact of abusers' use of custody and visitation to continue their abuse against a divorcing parent who is a victim of domestic violence. MCADSV advocacy led to the inclusion of protections for abuse victims in the 2021 bills. Should those protections be lessened or if harmful amendments are added to the bills, MCADSV will oppose the legislation. As long as the compromise domestic violence language remains included in HB 299 we will not oppose the bill. HB 299 would create a rebuttable presumption in favor of 50/50 custody in all child custody cases. The bill contains language exempting domestic violence victims from the presumption in favor of 50/50 custody provisions. MCADSV's position on the bill is proposed as one of "monitoring" the bill without opposition, with the expectation of opposing the bill should the domestic violence protections be removed or weakened. Although MCADSV staff are not there in-person, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JEREMY ROBERTS		PHONE NUMBER: 314-814-0977	
REPRESENTING: AMERICANS FOR EQUAL SHARED PARENTING		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1			
CITY: ST. CHARLES		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63302
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2021 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JESSICA KRUSE		PHONE NUMBER: 417-582-5120	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: STATE OF MISSOURI JUDICIARY		TITLE: ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT JUDGE	
ADDRESS: 110 WEST ELM ST., RM 205			
CITY: OZARK		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65721
EMAIL: jessica.kruse@courts.mo.gov		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2021 4:37 PM

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My name is Jessica Kruse and I am the Division III Associate Circuit Judge in the 38th Circuit of Missouri. Under the judicial ethics rules I am allowed to provide testimony to a committee such as this when I believe the legislation can further the administration of justice and, as such, that will be the focus of this written testimony. I think this legislative amendment furthers the administration of justice for the following reasons: First, having a presumption such as this can manage a litigant's expectations and can assist both attorneys and litigants in narrowing the issues that they present in court. This can ultimately reduce the length of time from the time the case is initiated to the time the case is resolved at trial. Setting expectations can also assist in the settlement of a case. Second, this amendment could reduce venue and judge shopping that can sometimes occur in these cases. Although every case is fact specific and there are no guarantees of a certain outcome, all parties start from the same place regardless of the venue and judge. This presumption would be similar to the presumption that exists with respect to child support. Attorneys can advise their clients regarding the presumed child support amount based on the Form 14 calculations and that can assist in setting a client's expectation about what can realistically be requested. Of course, with the Form 14 child support presumption, the judge always has discretion to deviate from that number and the parties always have the ability to agree to a number that is different than the presumed amount. That would be the same with this presumption. This presumption does not take away judicial discretion. The 8 factor analysis would still need to be completed if the parties are not in agreement. A shared custody presumption can always be rebutted with evidence that it would not be in the best interest of the child. I certainly acknowledge that equal parenting time is not always in the best interest of the child. There are circumstances where equal time, and even unsupervised time, with one parent is not only not in the child's best interest but could be dangerous for a child as in the case where there is abuse and neglect. This amendment would not take away my discretion in those scenarios. Abuse and neglect is already a factor considered in the 8 factor analysis. In conclusion, I will emphasize that this does not take away judicial discretion and could ultimately further the administration of justice. Thank you.