

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4.20.99

BILL NO. _____
OR _____

SUBJECT Senate Bill 107

Julie Hofeltz
(NAME)

1020 Sunnyvale Ln., Apt. F
(Street Address or Route Number)

Madison WI 53713
(City and Zip Code)

(Representing) _____

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:

but not speaking:

Registering Against:

but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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Senate Sergeant-At-Arms
State Capitol - B35 South
P.O.Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4/20/99

BILL NO. 107
OR _____

SUBJECT Custody and Placement of children

Eileen Breitsweiser
(NAME)

3110 Nightingale Ln.
(Street Address or Route Number)

Middleton WI 53562
(City and Zip Code)

(Representing) _____

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:

but not speaking:

Registering Against:

but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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State Capitol - B35 South
P.O.Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4/20/99

BILL NO. 107
OR _____

SUBJECT Equal Placement

MARJORIE SCHUETT
(NAME)

37th SPRING TR
(Street Address or Route Number)

MADISON 53711
(City and Zip Code)

(Representing) _____

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:

but not speaking:

Registering Against:

but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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State Capitol - B35 South
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Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4/20/99

BILL NO. SB 107

SUBJECT Equal Placement

Presumption in divorce

(NAME) Janelle Allen

4143 S. Sunset Court

(Street Address or Route Number)

Madison WI 53705

(City and Zip Code)

(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:

but not speaking:

Registering Against:

but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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State Capitol - B35 South
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Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4/30/99

BILL NO. 107

SUBJECT custody

(NAME) Dr. Rick Rubow

617 S. Brieley St

(Street Address or Route Number)

Madison WI 53703

(City and Zip Code)

(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:

but not speaking:

Registering Against:

but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4.20.99

BILL NO. SB107

SUBJECT _____

(NAME) Milwaukee County Judge Thomas R. Coopers, Branch 28

10201 Waterbury Park Road

(Street Address or Route Number)

Wauwatosa, WI. 53225

(City and Zip Code)

(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:

but not speaking:

Registering Against:

but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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State Capitol - B35 South
P.O.Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

*Change to
notification*

DATE: 4-20-99
BILL NO. SB 107
OR
SUBJECT _____

(NAME) Larve Richmond

(Street Address or Route Number) 328 S Main - Road 219

(City and Zip Code) Jefferson, WI 53549

(Representing) Wisconsin Child Support Agency
Assoc.

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:

but not speaking:

Registering Against:

but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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State Capitol - B35 South
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Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4-20-99
BILL NO. SB107
OR
SUBJECT Child Custody

(NAME) CARMEN PREE

(Street Address or Route Number) 841 N. Broadway Route 2

(City and Zip Code) Wau WI 53202

(Representing) WISCONSIN ON DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ABUSE

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:

but not speaking:

Registering Against:

but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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State Capitol - B35 South
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Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4/20/99
BILL NO. SB 107
OR
SUBJECT _____

(NAME) Anne Amesen

(Street Address or Route Number) 16 N. Carroll

(City and Zip Code) MADISON WI 53703

(Representing) WISCONSIN
COUNCIL ON CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:

but not speaking:

Registering Against:

but not speaking:
will send written comments
Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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State Capitol - B35 South
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Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4.20.99

BILL NO. SB107

SUBJECT _____

(NAME) David Rohn
(Street Address or Route Number) Waukesha County Courthouse

(City and Zip Code) _____
(Representing) Waukesha County

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:

but not speaking:

Registering Against:

but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4.20.99

BILL NO. SB 107

SUBJECT _____

(NAME) ATHLEEN JEFFORDS
also Director/Dave G. Family Quest Center
(Street Address or Route Number) 2138 Chaboume Ave

(City and Zip Code) MADISON WI 53705
(Representing) _____

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:

but not speaking:

Registering Against:

but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4/20/99

BILL NO. SB 107

SUBJECT _____

(NAME) Patricia Wathen
(Street Address or Route Number) 538 Evergreen Ave

(City and Zip Code) Madison
(Representing) my children

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:

but not speaking:

Registering Against:

but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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Senate Sergeant-At-Arms
State Capitol - B35 South
P.O.Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

I will be gone from about 2:30 until 3:15

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4/20/99

BILL NO. SB 107

OR
SUBJECT Equal Shared

Parenting Bell

(NAME) JAMES NOVAK

(Street Address or Route Number)

2116 MONROE ST

(City and Zip Code) MADISON, WI 53711

(Representing) SELF

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

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Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4/20/99

BILL NO. SB 107

OR
SUBJECT CHILD CUSTODY

AND PLACEMENT

JAN RAZ

(NAME) 10120 W FOREST HOME AVE

(Street Address or Route Number)

HALLS CORNERS, WI 53130

(City and Zip Code)

WISCONSIN FATHERS FOR CHILDREN

(Representing) & FAMILIES

Speaking in Favor:
JIM WELBY I WILL BE SPEAKING TOGETHER

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

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State Capitol - B35 South
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Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4-20-99

BILL NO. SB107
or

SUBJECT _____

Lynn Kempen
(NAME)

N7933 Town Hall
(Street Address or Route Number)

Black Creek 54106
(City and Zip Code)

For Kids' Sake
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

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P.O.Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4-20-99

BILL NO. SB107
or

SUBJECT _____

Pat Kempen
(NAME)

N7933 Town Hall
(Street Address or Route Number)

Black Creek 54106
(City and Zip Code)

For Kids' Sake
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

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SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4/20/99
BILL NO. SB 107
OR
SUBJECT _____

Kathleen A. Hayes
(NAME)
936 Hillcrest Drive
(Street Address or Route Number)
Horicon WI 53032
(City and Zip Code)
Children & families
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor: ^{if time permits} _{permits}
Speaking Against:
Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:
Registering Against:
but not speaking:
Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

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State Capitol - B35 South
P.O.Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4-20-99
BILL NO. SB 107
OR
SUBJECT _____

Clair Wiederholt
(NAME)
5746 Wers Rd
(Street Address or Route Number)
Waukegan, WI 53597
(City and Zip Code)
Legislation for Kids & Dads
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:
Speaking Against:
Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:
Registering Against:
but not speaking:
Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

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SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4/20/99

BILL NO. SB 107

OR
SUBJECT EQUAL SHARED

PARENTING

Ross D Hampton
(NAME)

701 PIRATE ISL. RD #11
(Street Address or Route Number)

MONONA 53716
(City and Zip Code)

NO ONE
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

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Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4-20-99

BILL NO. 107
OR

SUBJECT _____

(NAME)

Joseph MARINCI
(Street Address or Route Number)

3925 Bradee Rd
(City and Zip Code)

Brookfield WI
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

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State Capitol - B35 South
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Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4-20-99

BILL NO. 107

OR

SUBJECT Shared Parenting

(NAME)

ANDREW KEINER
(Street Address or Route Number)

W3309 HV
(City and Zip Code)

McFord Wis. 54451
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:

but not speaking:

Registering Against:

but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4-20-99

BILL NO. Senate Bill 107

OR

SUBJECT Equal Shared Parenting

(NAME)

Rich Leistikow
1553 W. 11th Lane
(Street Address or Route Number)

Friendship, WI. 53934
(City and Zip Code)

Citizens For Family Law Ref.
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:

but not speaking:

Registering Against:

but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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State Capitol - B35 South
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SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4-20-99

BILL NO. 107

OR

SUBJECT CHILDREN

KEITH TROST
(NAME)

24213 18TH ST
(Street Address or Route Number)

KANSASVILLE WI 53139
(City and Zip Code)

SELF
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

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State Capitol - B35 South
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Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4/20/99

BILL NO. SB 107

OR

SUBJECT _____

MATTHEW PIPES
(NAME)

2546 S. Stoughton Rd.
(Street Address or Route Number)

MADISON, WI 53716
(City and Zip Code)

Self
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

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State Capitol - B35 South
P.O.Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4-20-98

BILL NO. SB 107

OR

SUBJECT _____

Roland Diehnelt
(NAME)

NR9 W16672 Cleveland
(Street Address or Route Number)

Menomonee Falls 53051
(City and Zip Code)

(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

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Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4-20-99

BILL NO. SB 107

OR

SUBJECT _____

Robert Eisenbart
(NAME)

2921 93rd St
(Street Address or Route Number)

Sturtevant 53197
(City and Zip Code)

WISC CHILDREN'S ADVOCATES
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

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SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4/20/99

BILL NO. SB 107

OR
SUBJECT Shared parenting

MALCOLM HATFIELD
(NAME)

6 Raven Turn
(Street Address or Route Number)

RACINE, WI 53402
(City and Zip Code)

(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

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SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4/20/99

BILL NO. 107

OR
SUBJECT Custody/Physical

Placement Determination

Andrew Graham
(NAME)

2027 Jackson Street
(Street Address or Route Number)

Stoughton, WI 53589
(City and Zip Code)

Self
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

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SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4-20-99

BILL NO. SB107

OR
SUBJECT EQUAL / SHARED

PARENTING

ROBIN CHILDERS
(NAME)

927 MAIN STREET
(Street Address or Route Number)

UNION GROVE, WI 53182
(City and Zip Code)

SELF
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

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Senate Sergeant-At-Arms
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SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: APRIL 1999

BILL NO. SB 107

OR
SUBJECT SHARED Parenting

Jim Kaveger
(NAME)

10833 N. Port Wash, RI
(Street Address or Route Number)

MRQUON 53092
(City and Zip Code)

(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

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SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4-20-99

BILL NO. SB 107

OR

SUBJECT _____

Matthew Busam
(NAME)

460 Central Ave
(Street Address or Route Number)

Beloit, WI 53571
(City and Zip Code)

(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

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SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4/20/99

BILL NO. SB 107

OR

SUBJECT CUSTODY AND

PHYSICAL PLACEMENT

TOM PFEIFFER
(NAME)

4214 BEVERLY RD.
(Street Address or Route Number)

MADISON 53711
(City and Zip Code)

SELF

(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

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Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4-20-99

BILL NO. 107

OR

SUBJECT Reforming the

current unjust

system of divorce law

(NAME) John Puchner

151 W16945 Fair Oak

(Street Address or Route Number)

Men. Falls WI 53051

(City and Zip Code)

Dads

(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:

but not speaking:

Registering Against:

but not speaking:

Speaking for information

only; Neither for nor against:

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Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 04/20/99

BILL NO. 107

OR

SUBJECT Family/

placement/Guardian ad litem

Divorce

(NAME)

Nicholas T. Kohn

(Street Address or Route Number)

25 Frederick Cir.

(City and Zip Code)

Madison, WI 53711

(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:

but not speaking:

Registering Against:

but not speaking:

Speaking for information

only; Neither for nor against:

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Senate Sergeant-At-Arms
State Capitol - B35 South
P.O.Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: April 20, 99

BILL NO. senate 107

OR

SUBJECT equal shared
parenting

Mike Schuur
(NAME)

P.O. Box 669
(Street Address or Route Number)

Adams, Wis 53910
(City and Zip Code)

(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

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SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4/20/99

BILL NO. SB 107

OR

SUBJECT CHILD CUSTODY

ROGER BEERS
(NAME)

E3430 WILKINSON RD
(Street Address or Route Number)

LA VALLE WI 53941
(City and Zip Code)

(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

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Senate Sergeant-At-Arms
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SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: APRIL 20, 1999

BILL NO. SB 107

OR

SUBJECT _____

MARK L. PIERAGOSTINI
(NAME)

2811 SPAULDING AVE.
(Street Address or Route Number)

JANESVILLE, WI 53546
(City and Zip Code)

(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

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SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4/20/99

BILL NO. SB 107

OR

SUBJECT _____

Tina PierAgostini
(NAME)

2811 Spaulding Ave
(Street Address or Route Number)

JANESVILLE, WI 53546
(City and Zip Code)

(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

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SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4-20-99

BILL NO. SB 107

OR

SUBJECT _____

Karen Marsden
(NAME)

110 E Edgewood
(Street Address or Route Number)

Appleton WI 54915
(City and Zip Code)

(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

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SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4-20-99

BILL NO. SB 107

OR

SUBJECT Child Custody

Joseph Vaughn
(NAME)

6909 N. Co. M #35
(Street Address or Route Number)

Evansville, Wis. 53536
(City and Zip Code)

Self
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

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P.O.Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4-20-97

BILL NO. 107

OR

SUBJECT Equal Parenting

William Pangman
(NAME)

POB 2288
(Street Address or Route Number)

Waukesha WI 53127
(City and Zip Code)

My children
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY.

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms
State Capitol - B35 South
P.O.Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4/20/99

BILL NO. SB 107

OR

SUBJECT _____

James Dean
(NAME)

1045 Greenfield Trail
(Street Address or Route Number)

Chesham WI 54904
(City and Zip Code)

Self
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:

but not speaking:

Registering Against:

but not speaking:

Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

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State Capitol - B35 South
P.O.Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4-20-99

BILL NO. SB107

OR

SUBJECT _____

Dan Gillette

(NAME)

5221 Tonyawatha

(Street Address or Route Number)

Monona WI 5316

(City and Zip Code)

(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

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Senate Sergeant-At-Arms
State Capitol - B35 South
P.O.Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: April 20, 1999

BILL NO. SB107

OR

SUBJECT _____

(NAME)

James Perry

(Street Address or Route Number)

7206 Fortune Drive

(City and Zip Code)

Middleton, WI 53562

(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

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Senate Sergeant-At-Arms
State Capitol - B35 South
P.O.Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4-20-99

BILL NO. 107
or

SUBJECT _____

See Fisher
(NAME)

Box 13091
(Street Address or Route Number)

Wauwatosa 53213
(City and Zip Code)

(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

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Senate Sergeant-At-Arms
State Capitol - B35 South
P.O.Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4/20/99

BILL NO. SB 107
or

SUBJECT _____

TONY LAUF
(NAME)

3806-16th St
(Street Address or Route Number)

RACINE WI 53405
(City and Zip Code)

(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

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Senate Sergeant-At-Arms
State Capitol - B35 South
P.O.Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4-20-99

BILL NO. 107

OR

SUBJECT _____

RONALD ORTON
(NAME)

5150 ANTON DR # 201
(Street Address or Route Number)

MADISON WI 53719
(City and Zip Code)

MYSELF
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

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Senate Sergeant-At-Arms
State Capitol - B35 South
P.O.Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4-20-99

BILL NO. 107

OR

SUBJECT _____

Jessica Orton
(NAME)

9 New Bern Ct.
(Street Address or Route Number)

Madison, WI, 53719
(City and Zip Code)

MYSELF
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

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Senate Sergeant-At-Arms
State Capitol - B35 South
P.O.Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4-20-99

BILL NO. 107

OR

SUBJECT _____

Ronald A. Ploessl
(NAME)

1055 East Washington Ave #202
(Street Address or Route Number)

Madison, WI 53703
(City and Zip Code)

(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

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Senate Sergeant-At-Arms
State Capitol - B35 South
P.O.Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 04-20-99

BILL NO. SB 107

OR

SUBJECT _____

State Rep. Terry Musser
(NAME)

11-W, Capitol
(Street Address or Route Number)

(City and Zip Code)

(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

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Senate Sergeant-At-Arms
State Capitol - B35 South
P.O.Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4/20/99

BILL NO. 107

OR

SUBJECT _____

Keith Bennett
(NAME)

w127 58931 North Cape Rd
(Street Address or Route Number)

Moskogo WI 53150
(City and Zip Code)

(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

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State Capitol - B35 South
P.O.Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4/20/99

BILL NO. SB 107

OR

SUBJECT _____

Christopher Walther
(NAME)

2033 E. Glendale Ave.
(Street Address or Route Number)

Whitefish Bay WI 53211
(City and Zip Code)

State Bar of Wisc - Family Law Section
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

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State Capitol - B35 South
P.O.Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4-20-99

BILL NO. SB 107

OR

SUBJECT _____

Jo Ann Gray-Murray
(NAME)
Wisc. Coalition Against Domestic
307 S. Paterson St. Suite #1 Violence
(Street Address or Route Number)

Madison WI 53213
(City and Zip Code)

Wisc. Coalition Against Domestic
(Representing) Violence

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

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State Capitol - B35 South
P.O.Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4-20-99

BILL NO. S.B. 107

OR

SUBJECT _____

Rick Kreemel
(NAME)
2020 S. CLIFF AVE. CT #4
(Street Address or Route Number)

Waukesha WI 53089
(City and Zip Code)

(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

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State Capitol - B35 South
P.O.Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4-20-99

BILL NO. _____

OR

SUBJECT CUSTODY BILL

SANDRA EDHLUND
(NAME) 1706 60th W WI Ave
Suite 400 1706
(Street Address or Route Number)

MILW WI 53203
(City and Zip Code)

Self as Alt. Family
(Representing) Dependa

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

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State Capitol - B35 South
P.O.Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4-20-99

BILL NO. 107

OR

SUBJECT _____

Custody Placement
Michael P. Sullivan
(NAME)

901 N. 9th Street - Rm 514
(Street Address or Route Number)

Milwaukee, WI
(City and Zip Code)

Self
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

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Senate Sergeant-At-Arms
State Capitol - B35 South
P.O.Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 4/20/99

BILL NO. 107

OR
SUBJECT Joint Custody

Cannil Chesnik
(NAME)

201 E. Wash
(Street Address or Route Number)

Madison - 53707
(City and Zip Code)

DWD
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:
but not speaking:

Registering Against:
but not speaking:

Speaking for information
only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY.

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms
State Capitol - B35 South
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers

Protecting the family. Improving the practice.

— Wisconsin Chapter —

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Loeb & Herman, SC
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(414) 272-5632

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Richard J. Podell

April 16, 1999

VIA FAX(608) 266-7381
Senator Gary George

Dear Senator George:

Re: SB 107

The Wisconsin Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers urges you to reject Senate Bill 107, which is scheduled for a public hearing before the Judiciary Committee on April 20, 1999. This Bill would deprive children of needed protection during custody and physical placement disputes, contrary to the policies of the State of Wisconsin.

The American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers consists of attorneys who have passed examination and scrutiny as meeting substantive law and ethical standards of the highest in the profession. In addition to representing both husbands and wives in divorce actions, many of us serve in the role of guardian ad litem advocating for the best interests of children. In addition, we are familiar with psychological and mental health recommendations regarding minimizing the impact of family dissolution on children.

Wisconsin family law has long stood in the forefront of protecting children. Our state is used as model throughout the nation by requiring mandatory appointments of guardians ad litem when substantive issues regarding children are before the court. In addition, we have long made the best interests of the child the focus of the court's attention.

In a legislative setting, special interest groups have the ability to lobby legislators for their best interests. Children don't have a lobbying group, which makes them at the mercy of laws which you as a legislator may pass. To amend Wisconsin law to eliminate best interests of the child as the primary focus of the court would promote special interests groups over the unprotected rights of children.

To encourage the study, improve the practice, elevate the standards and advance the cause of matrimonial law, to the end that the welfare of the family and society be preserved.

While the role of the guardian ad litem is a difficult one, frequently, the guardian ad litem is the only one in court advocating for the rights of the child. Since frequently the guardian ad litem adopts the position of neither of the parties, it is no wonder that special interests groups will lobby you to eliminate guardians ad litem. It is not the job of the guardian ad litem to make either party pleased with the recommendation. Rather, the role of the guardian ad litem is to ensure the court that someone is looking out for the child, and not just for their own personal interests.

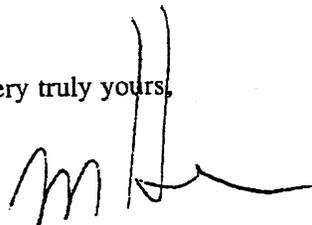
Effective July 1, 1999, by Supreme Court rule, lawyers will need specialized training in order to accept appointments as guardians ad litem. Further, the State Bar of Wisconsin Family Law Section has adopted recommended practice guidelines to help guardians ad litem in their role. To eliminate guardians ad litem entirely would leave the child naked and unprotected before the court.

While on a superficial basis a presumption of each placement seems to make sense, it is urged that you hear from the mental health experts who tell us that in many circumstances this does not meet the best interests of the child's standard. While there are cases where children should spend half the time with each parent, there are many cases where the child's interests are best met by having a primary residence. It is impossible for the legislature to adopt by statute a placement schedule that will serve the interests of all children in every circumstance. The courts need discretion to do what is best in an individual case as these circumstances vary so greatly from one case to another.

As SB 107 adopts simplicity over best interests of the child, it violates the policy of the State of Wisconsin to protect children and would eliminate the only person in court who is assigned a role of looking after the children. It is urged that you reject SB 107.

Thank you for your attention. If you have any questions, please feel at liberty to contact me.

Very truly yours,



Gregg Herman

rcw

cc: AAML Wisconsin Chapter

**LEGISLATION FOR KIDS AND DADS
1401 BELD STREET
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53715**

April 20, 1999

Senator Gary George and Members of the Judiciary and
Consumer Affairs Committee
Wisconsin State Senate
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53701

RE: SB 107 EQUAL SHARED PARENTING BILL

Dear Chairman George and Committee Members:

We members of Legislation for Kids and Dads and the major parents organizations around the state that we work with ask you to support SB 107.

Shared parenting just makes good sense. It is the norm for intact families and should be the norm for non-intact families as well. How have we become a society so willing to deny our children a full relationship with a loving parent if the parents are not married? Especially when child care experts tells us the greatest loss for a child is the loss of a parent.

When 272 college students whose parents had been divorced were asked, "What is the best living arrangement for the children," a full 75% answered, "An equal amount of time with each parent." *

Our children blossom in the care of two loving parents and suffer when one parent is gone. 87% of Wisconsin juvenile delinquents, 72% of our adolescent murderers, 60% of our rapists and 70% of our long-term prisoners grew up in father-absent homes.

Daughters reared without their fathers have double the likelihood of an unwed pregnancy, marry younger, and have double the divorce rates when they do marry.

Elementary school children reared without a father have to repeat grades at a rate two times higher than children reared by both biological parents, have higher high school drop out rates, and are less likely to go on to college.

Shared parenting makes good sense for the parents as well. It gives divorced mothers the time and freedom to pursue their careers and have a social life with other adults. A mom straddled with the sole responsibility for rearing her child experiences greater stress, frustration, and restricted career opportunities.

Dads are spared the all-too-frequent devastating loss of his children and the insulting, anger-provoking demotion to a "visitor" role. Have you ever wondered why there are so many angry divorced dads out there? When the courts forcibly strip a decent father of his children, we should expect no less. I would be troubled if these dads weren't angry over their loss.

Children bring out the best in men. Children elicit men's tender, nurturing, giving side.

Shared parenting also makes good sense for society. According to US Census Bureau figures, 90% of parents with equal shared parenting pay their full child support. According to a Wisconsin judge who already implements shared parenting in his courtroom, it reduces courtroom litigation and the some \$50 million Wisconsin taxpayers pay annually to finance the divorce courts and child support enforcement.

Since shared parenting lowers juvenile delinquency, crime, unwed pregnancy rates, and high school drop out rates, society saves a bundle, both in the short term and the long term. Significantly, child abuse rates, now growing as quickly as the number of single parent homes, are lower when children have two parents rearing them.

Wisconsin now has an unparalleled opportunity to improve the lives of its citizens and their children with the introduction of SB 107, the Equal Shared Parenting Bill. **This bill creates public policy that would give our children the love and care of both parents regardless of the parent's current marital status.** It's not just the kids of intact families that need both parents, but all of our kids. This is not really a very radical idea.

While some are invested in defending of our harsh system of "parent-ectomy" of our children, it's important to note that **no research or expert has ever demonstrated that children are better off raised with one parent rather than two, barring parental unfitness.**

Sincerely,



Clair Wiederholt

Father and Director of Legislation for Kids and Dads

*Divorced Dads: Shattering the Myths, Sanford Braver, Ph.D., 1998, p. 224.

5746 Weis Road
Waunakee, WI 53597
April 20, 1999

Senator Gary George and the Committee on Judiciary and Consumer Affairs
State Capitol, Room 11 East
Madison, WI 53701

RE: SB107, SHARED PARENTING BILL

Dear Senator George and Committee Members:

I am writing to you as a divorced mother and psychotherapist. **Please support SB107.** When my husband and I were divorced six years ago we voluntarily chose to share our two children on a 50-50 basis. My former spouse has the children on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday nights. I have the children on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday nights. We rotate Saturday nights.

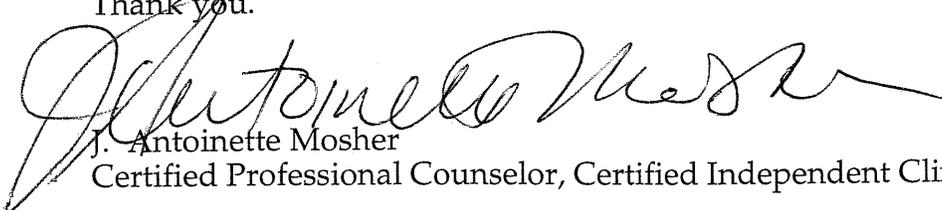
Even though we live 30 miles apart, **our children have thrived under this shared arrangement.** Neither of my children have had to suffer the loss of their father or see his role diminished to a "visitor" one. Both children tell me they like this shared arrangement. **My former husband remains fully involved in all aspects of my son's and daughter's lives.**

Please make this sharing of children following divorce the standard for all nontraditional families of the state.

As a psychotherapist I see many divorcing couples. **Many children and parents are distressed at the prospect of losing contact with each other.** Many dads, especially fear this. They do not think they are entitled to request equal time with their children. This bill would create a standard that would create and strengthen these vital relationships in divorce and unwed situation where they are most threatened.

SB107 would reduce much of the trauma of divorce for Wisconsin's children and parents and be a positive force for the good.

Thank you.



J. Antoinette Mosher

Certified Professional Counselor, Certified Independent Clinical Social Worker

**IOWA COUNTY
CHILD SUPPORT AGENCY
COURTHOUSE**

222 N Iowa Street • Dodgeville WI 53533
Phone 608-935-0390 • Fax 608-935-0382

April 20, 1999

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
FROM: JOSEPH L. BARTOSH, IOWA COUNTY CHILD SUPPORT DIRECTOR
RE: SENATE BILL 107

The Iowa County Child Support Agency opposes SB 107. This bill, in our opinion, jeopardizes the welfare of Wisconsin's children.

Under current law, the court must look at what is in the best interest of the child to determine custody. It is very important that this standard be retained. To remove it and replace it with what is, essentially, no standard at all, is a scary thought. To award joint custody, regardless of the circumstances, and create a refutable presumption that someone is automatically a good parent, flies in the face of logic. The hands of the court must not be tied in deciding matters between adversarial parties. That is why we have neutral magistrates. They are able to make logical decisions based on the facts of a case, not their own emotional involvement. That is the reason for the guardian ad litem provision – to have someone represent the interest of the child, not either of the “warring parents.” Many decisions are made during the heat of a divorce which not only do not protect the child but do them great harm. The child is defenseless in a divorce. There needs to be someone – the judge and guardian ad litem – to protect them from a situation over which they have no control. Children are not a piece of property to be manipulated. The court must be allowed to protect them. Sad to say, that protection often must be from their own parents. Further, the only two reasons this bill would allow as proof the parents could not cooperate in decision-making, and thus overcome the joint custody presumption, are much too narrow. To say that someone must be convicted of a crime before they may be denied joint custody ignores the reality that there are many cases of spousal abuse, child neglect and abuse, child molestation, and sexual assault that go unreported. To deny to the court the power to take into account circumstances that they know would seriously harm the physical or emotional development of a child is unconscionable. This bill would remove any protection children have in a divorce. It is absolutely imperative that neutral third parties, the court and guardian ad litem, have the ability to oversee the process so that a child is not destroyed by a set of parents each bent on their own interests. One of the strongest features of the law in this country is judicial discretion. Whether in criminal or civil cases, the court must be free to exercise its good judgment. One size does not fit all in this situation. Each case has its own unique set of facts and circumstances. To simply

pass a law that says every case will, in essence, be treated the same, ignores reality. This bill places the wishes of the parents above the needs and interests of the child, the most vulnerable person in a divorce. The child's needs must be protected. That is the role of the court. It must not be taken away.

There are many other parts of this bill that are also objectionable. SB 107 would take away the authority of the court to order child support back to date of birth. The court now has the authority to determine when child support begins. The judge may set it from date of birth, date of service of process, date of court order, etc. Once again, as with the other objectionable parts of this bill, this provision would tie the hands of the court to do what the judge feels is proper. The fact is that my child is mine from the day he is born. That gives me a certain level of responsibility for that child, even if I was not adjudicated for years. Maybe no one could find me, maybe I hid out on purpose or whatever. The fact may be under many circumstances that the mother may have, on her own, supported that child. She has a right to expect a like contribution from me for all those years.

Another section of SB 107 would in effect do away with the ability to collect birth costs from the father of a child in a paternity. Thus someone else would end up paying for the costs of my child's birth. Hardly fair. Right now the court has the authority to assign or not assign birth costs to the father. The court can order full payment, partial payment, or if the situation calls for it, no payment at all. There is no need for a change. Another attempt to tie the courts' hands.

SB 107 removes the provision from current law which authorizes the court to transfer legal custody to a county department or licensed welfare agency. Does that mean that if there is a Department of Social Service investigation which determines that for the safety of the child, the child needs to be removed from the home, the court cannot do it? Does it mean that if the child is in danger, no action can be taken by the professionals in the child welfare field to help that child with court sanction? I hope not. Again, the welfare of the child seems to take the back burner.

A further concern is the proposed revision of the law concerning the rights of a parent to move to a different city, school district, etc. Many times such a move is to obtain a better job, better living environment, better family support system and other valid reasons. Many times these moves will be to the benefit of the child. There should be wide latitude for the courts in determining these issues.

We would respectfully suggest the Committee take a long and hard look at the consequences of enacting this bill. We believe that when you do, you will come to the same conclusion that we have. Namely, this piece of legislation should not be passed. As always, we appreciate your time and attention to important matters such as this which greatly affect the welfare of Wisconsin children.

Joseph L. Bartosh
Iowa County Child Support Director

Ross Hampton
711 Pirate Island Rd. #11
Monona, WI 53716
April 1999

To the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Consumer Affairs

Good afternoon.

My name is Ross Hampton. I am the father of two lovely daughters, ages 4 and 6. My divorce was final in July of 1998. I am here because I support Senate Bill 107, the Equal Shared Parenting bill. I am not a member of any association, organization, lobby group, or political pac that would have any interest in the legislation before you today. I do want to take this opportunity to share my personal perspectives and interest in SB 107.

Senate Bill 107 would have a dramatic effect on my daughters and me. Right now, I'm only allowed to be a Dad 36% of the time. That means that out of every 14 days, I get to see my daughters 5. They are with their mother the other 9 days. Senate Bill 107 allows me to be a father 50% of the time or 7 out of every 14 days.

Perhaps your initial thought is, I must have done something wrong if I wasn't granted primary physical placement or shared placement of our children. You're wrong. Our divorce wasn't about abuse, alcohol, drugs, neglect, or even our children. As a result of the divorce, I share joint legal custody of our children with my ex-wife, which means both parents have the right and responsibility to make major decisions concerning the children. Physical placement is a different matter; it spells out when the children actually will reside in each parental home. The current law says physical placement can range from 100% in one parental home to a shared placement or "30/70" arrangement. As I understand it, 50/50 is only granted when **both** parents agree to it. I asked for equal placement but because my ex-wife objected, we were forced to use a guardian ad litem to make that decision. The guardian apparently found no faults with my parenting as a father or my lifestyle, because she actually told us that she believed the best interests of our children would be served regardless of which parent had primary physical

placement. Nevertheless, she recommended the 36/64 split (roughly the 30/70 split you'll hear referenced from time to time) in favor of my ex-wife. Although I found this still unacceptable, my attorney advised me that to challenge it would require a study that would take over a year to complete and would cost roughly \$3,000. I couldn't do it financially or emotionally. I didn't think it was in the best interests of my children to drag them through another year of the emotional roller coaster we were all experiencing. I agreed to accept the guardian's decision in hopes that someday that would change.

What kind of dad am I? I love my children. I take them fishing, to the library, to the zoo. I read to them every night we're together. We color together. We bake cookies together. We visit family and friends. I take them to church. I help them with homework. I pick them up when they're sick at school. I take time off work when they are sick to care of them. I took them for their immunizations. My support payments are *never* late. I never drink. I've never used drugs. I've never raised my hand in anger. They are the reason I'm here today. If they were here today, they would tell you that they want to spend as much time with me as they do with their mother. For me, that's only two more days every two weeks. That sounds like such a simple thing. Equal placement would be fair to their mother, to them, and to me.

The best interests of my children would be served if they were allowed equal time with both of their parents. Last summer, Vice President Al Gore joined with the chairman of the Governors' and Congressional Task Forces on Fatherhood Promotion in Washington, D.C. to convene the 2nd National Summit on Fatherhood. In his address, Vice President Gore supported fathers spending as much time as possible with their children. He quoted William Shakespeare "It is a wise father that knows his own child." To this Gore added "It is a wise society that insists upon it. Fathers must spend time with their children."

To continue, Gore said "And let's be clear about one point. The **quality** of the time you spend with your children depends on the **quantity** of time you spend with them." How do I explain to my children that I am not allowed to be with them as much as they are with their mother? So, how are the best interests of my children served? When I am allowed to spend equal

time with them.

By the way, I'm not a "Disney" dad either. It's not a matter of making sure that all of the time I spend with my children is fun, fun, fun. I'm trying to teach them respect, responsibility, manners, kindness to others, and the joy one receives from giving to others and doing a good job. My children have little chores to do. They receive an allowance. They say please and thank you. They share. They help each other and me. They're respectful of adults. They even enjoy going to grandpa and grandma's house to help pick up sticks in the yard. It's the little stuff that makes a difference to them. I want them to be with me for more of the little stuff.

Another inequity of the law has to do with the fact that child-support formulas are tied to placement schedules. In my case, I have to pay \$400 a month in child support. I pay another \$300 in day care expenses, half of my daughter's school fees, half of their medical expenses and 36% of their "variable expenses." Of course, I also take care of all my girls' expenses when they live with me. In addition, I am not entitled to an accounting from my ex-wife as to how that \$400 she receives is actually benefiting my children. To add insult to injury, not only can I not see how my child support payments benefit my children, but I pay taxes on the payments she receives tax free. As I understand it, child support amounts *decrease* as placement time with the child increases; that means that if I shared equal physical placement of my children with my ex-wife, I would not pay any child support because we would share equally in their financial needs as well. Undoubtedly, equal physical placement, with the resultant loss of child support to one parent would be looked at by that parent as a loss of tax-free income. It is not uncommon for the custodial parent to receive large amounts of alimony as a child support award. If a noncustodial parent is obligated to pay child support because that's good for the children, it must also be as important that the children have equal access to both parents. How can one parent justify being more interested in their children's support check than they are with the love and nurturing two parents can equally provide?

I believe that joint legal custody and equal periods of physical placement are fundamental rights of each parent and their children. If Wisconsin is a no-fault divorce state (that is, neither

partner in the marriage has to prove the other partner was at fault for the break-up), and thus no one is "penalized" because of the divorce, then how is it that one of the parents is penalized when physical placement of the children is determined? Consider, too, that a "30-70 split" may encourage some fathers to be "dead-beat dads" because they never feel like they are part of their children's lives, except for the checks they must send. Senate Bill 107 would give men the opportunity to be fathers and not just a weekend visit and a support payment. If there are issues of abuse, drugs, alcohol, or neglect, the courts have all the power to protect the children.

Let me wrap up with a story Vice President Gore shared at the Summit last year.

Secretary Riley and I were releasing a new report on the powerful impact of a father's involvement in his children's education, and we were joined by a successful young girl and her devoted father. She told the audience that her father used to pick her up after school every day in a taxi. He was a taxi driver. Standing right next to her father, she told 200 people at the White House that she was embarrassed to say "my father is a taxi driver" because so many of her friends could say "my father is a doctor" or "my father is a lawyer." But as she grew older, she was no longer embarrassed to say "my father is a taxi driver" - because she came to realize that she could say something many of her friends could not say. She could say: "My father loves me."

That young woman's life was transformed by that love. So was her father's. A father's involvement in a child's life changes not only the child's life, it changes the father's life and the family's life, too. That is why we are here today. To encourage fathers in their irreplaceable role. Nothing holds half so much promise, for changing children's lives, and all our lives.

I strongly urge your support and passage of Senate Bill 107. I welcome a contact from you and I will try to answer any questions you might have about my own experience and how the passage of Senate Bill 107 will help me be with my children.

Thank you.

April 16, 1999

Sen. Gary George and The Committee on Judiciary and Consumer Affairs Members
State Capitol, Room 11 East
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Sen. George and Committee Members,

I am writing in support of The Equal Shared Parenting Bill, (Bill SB 107)

In my marriage of fourteen years, I played an active role in the lives of our three minor children. I was part of their school programs, scouting, church, home fun and work activities.

In Divorce Court I was treated as an unfit parent, because I have to work for a living and can't be home all the time with the children.

I was removed from my childrens' lives and forced to become a spectator instead of a participant. My primary role in my childrens' lives became to send their mother \$1,900. Per month "Child Support," which both she and her new husband live off. There is no accountability for how these payments are spent, and my children are constantly being told how little I pay for their support.

I was awarded five part days per month and two weekend days visitation plus three weeks in the summer.

After spending an additional Eight Thousand Dollars in legal fees and evaluations by Social Services and A couple of psychiatrists, I was awarded a few more hours per month visitation. The Court did stop my Ex from moving the children out of State.

After five years of limited contact, I have become a stranger to my own children, who I love Dearly.

Thank you


Daniel L. Osero

PO Box 343
Tomahawk, Wis. 54487
715 453 5723

September 1, 1999

Chair Bonnie Ladwig and Children and Families Committee,
Chair Carol Owens and Family Law Committee,

Please reform Wisconsin family law to remove the need to have "custody fights" over children. My daughter was born with two parents, and a divorce should end only the marriage, not a children right to be parented by both parents.

I have enclosed 30 pages of research I have found on the internet. I have hundred more, but picked out a sampling to give you a sense of the wide support for shared parenting. The pages all have web site addresses, so the information can be looked up and linked to other web sites. There are also many excellent books supporting shared parenting.

In the reading is a article from the Sept.-October 1996 edition of Single Mother Magazine, which summarized the problem: "Try not to panic. In spite of what you may read about working mothers losing custody, it still is not the prevailing theme."

Other selections:

Children's Rights Council

Attorney Anne Mitchell of Yale Law school on discrimination

Governor Thompson

Book review on the book Divorced dads, shattering the myths.

At-home dad newsletter

Readers Digest article

various Child Psychologists

I wish you could have seen the look of pain on my four year old daughters face when she knew she would not see me again for a long time (nine days). She did not understand time, only that dad was leaving her again. Parents should not be allowed to uproot their children, move them across the state away from the other parent.

When I gave up my business to move closer to my daughter, I took a second shift job to enable me to care for our daughter while mom worked. However, mom only allowed me to have her Wednesday morning, as she felt daycare "preschool" was more important to Alice than daily contact with dad. Eight months later the separation became official when the divorce proceedings began. I later learned my initial idea was correct, and petitioned the court to eliminate the need for daycare.

It was a joy to care for Alice daily. We read often, went to kids activities, parks, used our Milwaukee Zoo membership often, played, and all the things parents do. This lasted for over two years.

Moms war against dad only worsened after the divorce. Dad was not allowed to go to Alice's dance recital because that was "my time with Alice". What message did this send Alice? Perhaps she wondered what is wrong with dad that mommy will not allow dad to see me dance? The GAL later criticized dad saying "it was a public place and no one could have stopped me from going"...but with mom refusing to tell me where the dance school was, how was I supposed to know where to go?...A four year old cannot give directions...

I anticipated camping and spending more time with Alice with school out. Our marital settlement agreement called for "liberal placement" beyond the scheduled minimum of every other weekend and 9am to 5:30pm M-F. Never did mother grant this, in spite of my regularly allowing Alice extra time with mom. Right after the divorce mom became pregnant from a man she had just met, moved in with him and another roommate.

I attempted to get mediation, counseling, then finally gave up and filed a motion to ask the court to define "liberal placement", so Alice could have more time with father and vacation time during summer and holidays. The same Social worker and GAL again did a study and remove Alice from my daily care because mom was now a stay at home mom. Nothing else had changed in the year since the last study. The GAL and social worker outright lied. I have documented letters the GAL wrote to the court and court documents. This case is now in the Court of Appeals. The Racine County judge has already acknowledged two errors of law, though there are six errors.

How many social workers and GAL's practice gender bias and are smart enough to not get caught in lies?

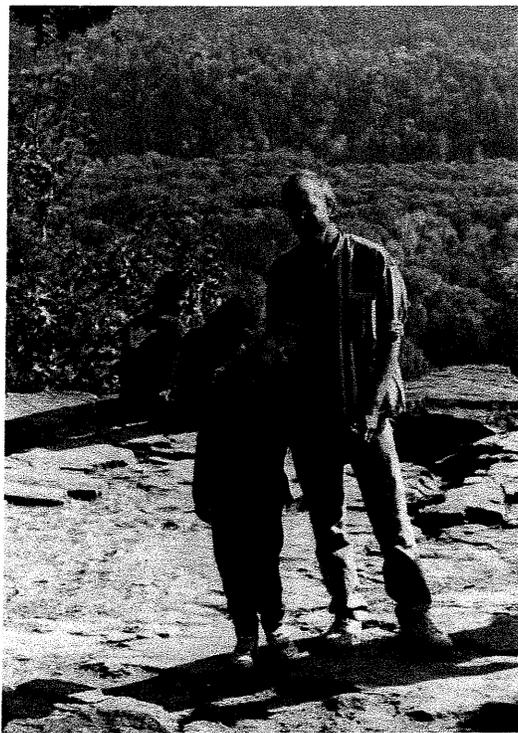
Alice is now with mom daily, and only with dad every other weekend, and every other Tuesday evening until 7:30pm during school. Thursday am until Sunday pm summers, plus two weeks vacation. Alice is now in school days, and cared for by a non-parent evenings since mother took a second shift job.

If all parents knew that a divorce would not end both parents having significant parenting roles, there would be no need to fight over custody. Knowing the other parent was going to be involved would promote cooperation instead of fighting. There will still be some people that are problems, but children would no longer experience the loss of a parent.

Yes it is more expensive maintaining two homes for children, but children need both parents, not custody battles and sole custody, with one parent given the role of "visitor".

Keith Trost

Keith Trost
24213 18th Street
Kansasville, WI 53139
414-878-9676



DATE: 08/31/99

MEMO

TO: Wisconsin State Senate Joint Assembly Committee

FROM: Rick Rubow, Ph.D.
Family Court Counselor
Licensed Psychologist

RE: Senate Bill SB 107

I am writing to express my opposition to SB 107 in all its forms and amendments. The bill has a fundamental flaw in that it takes great strides backwards in protecting the legal and emotional health of children. This bill essentially treats children as chattel. The assumption in dividing property is to share assets equally. This bill does the same for children. The bill equates equal calendar time with substantially equal roles in parenting. This bill tramples on the rights of children to have a family structure that best meets their needs and attempts to stuff a one-size-fits-all formula down every family's throat. The current laws which have evolved over time give priority to the "best interests of the child". This standard is not always the same as the best interests of either parent. An obvious example would be in the area of child support where a parent may have a motive to push for an equal placement schedule. While some children do well in an equal placement schedule, others do not. For example, children who are not well organized are less likely to function well with a schedule that shuttles them back and forth leaving a stream of stuff left behind. Some children need more structure, some children need more flexibility and the placement schedule should mesh with a parent's ability to provide what their children need. Very young children need frequent contact with both parents, but the cost of doing that would be very high if the parents were unable to keep their hostile emotions toward each other from contaminating the transitions. In some families one parent has done little parenting. Whether by agreement or by default, the result for a child can be the same--having a much stronger relationship or bond with the active parent. Only after the separation does the less active parent want to create that relationship by decree with a placement plan.

The statutes spell out a long list of factors that the Court must consider in deciding the best interests standard. This bill puts families in a straight jacket and by definition places the best interests of the of parents above the best interests of the child.



Testimony in Support of the Equal Shared Parenting Bill.

By: Robin E. Childers
937 Main Street
Union Grove, WI 53182
414.878.9709

e-mailto: robinc7@juno.com

My name is Robin Childers. I am the proud father of Kristopher Childers, who is eight years old and in the third grade at Union Grove Elementary School. I am pleased and honored to address this committee today. I have contacted Rep. Ladwig and Senator Plache to register my support for equal shared parenting.

Right next to my relationship with God, my relationship with my son has been the highest priority of my life. We have been and are close to each other emotionally and geographically. We live about six blocks from each other in the village of Union Grove. We always greet each other with a hug and say goodbye with "I love you" verbally and with the American sign-language sign of "I love You". To say that I am committed to his "best interests" would be an understatement.

Yet the current legal system in Wisconsin has in the past and presently does systematically deprive my son of the full personal support that he deserves from me, his Dad. The signing into law of this proposed bill and state budget is a necessary step in the right direction to give my son a better opportunity to benefit from the personal and financial support of both his father and mother.

First, by giving my son the opportunity for equal time with each of his parents he would gain the maximum possible time for nurturing from both parents who are divorced. Personally, my eight-year old son asks me frequently why he cannot be with me as much as he is with his mother. He wonders aloud, "Why can't things be fair?" The only honest answer for my son is, "because the Court says it must be this way". He certainly does not believe that his visits with me only every other weekend are in his best interests. I would not advocate that an eight-year old should make public policy. Yet, it is imminently clear that my son values both of his parents attention fully and does not deserve to be misled by our state that time shared with his father is not as important as time with his mother. Our Governor Thompson agrees that fathers should be encouraged toward real, positive participation in the lives of their children; the legal system needs to be an advocate of and not a deterrent to genuine parenting by both parents. My son deserves to receive what I could more effectively and affectionately give him directly from me as we could share more of life's experiences together.

It is an obvious reality, minimized personal time and financial (so called) "child support" are not a valid substitute for a loving father or mother who is systematically separated from his or her son.

Secondly, this bill provides for the security of my son to no more be moved from school district to school district. His primary physical custodial parent is obviously not committed to his social and geographical stability. His mother already moved from another state to Wisconsin. His mother has further threatened to move up to 150 miles, which she knows is the legal limit, if she does not get her way in parental disagreements. This bill would better provide for my son to have the equal opportunity for nurturing by both parents at a stable "home" area, where he would not have to fear being separated from his Dad, his extended family, or established friendships again without both parents' approval.

Simply put this bill provides for a child of divorced parents to be given a better opportunity to be loved and nurtured by both parents. That is all that the vast majority of parents desire in Wisconsin, or anywhere else for that matter. The present system facilitates the mirage of winners and losers. I use the mirage metaphor to emphasize the understanding that at first glance the court commissioners, attorneys for the parents, guardians ad litem, social workers and Department of Workforce Development appear to win because they generate income for themselves by encouraging unnecessary litigation, psycho/social analysis, and paper shuffling. Just one example of unnecessary and wasteful redundancy is the perpetual, monthly statement of financial "child support" by the Department of Workforce Development which has been already automatically deducted and documented by my employer. Morally, however, this metaphor of the mirage becomes starkly, even cruelly, true when our legal system functions truly for its selfish best interests as its representatives attempt to rationalize their actions and not address the true best interests of the children involved in custody disputes.

The present legal system benefits from custody disputes and is therefore in a conflict of interest between itself and my son's best interests by. My son has been prejudicially precluded from equal personal support by both of his parents; the present legal system creates and perpetuates litigation by its obvious prejudice away from fatherhood. The passage of this budget would assert that children such as my son would have a better opportunity for pro-active genuine two-parent care. The current litigation driven and gender-biased process fosters fighting and promotes aggressive and selfishly defensive behavior by fathers and mothers. Legal battles that waste taxpayers' and parents' time and money would be curtailed and parental cooperation would be encouraged.

Both parents need all the encouragement they can get to be as positively involved with their children throughout the entire lives of their children. Frankly, I, with a full-time day job, was up at all hours of the night more than my son's mother, who worked part-time, was when he was an infant. I changed his diapers. I bathed him every night. Now, I coach his teams and teach him how to read and use a computer. My son, as well as other children of all ages, needs to experience both parents as equally as is reasonable at all stages of his development. This bill deliberately considers both parents as active participants during the entire child rearing years.

I appear before you today in an attempt to be first and foremost the best Dad I can be for my son. Secondly, I testify today to support and advocate this progressive budget which would help children from broken homes, their parents, and our society to better manage the care of our children.

I respectfully submit this Testimony.

Robin E. Childers

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robin E Childers". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the printed name.



332 Pennsylvania • Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235 • www.helpofdoorcounty.org
 CRISIS 920-743-8818 or 1-800-91-HELP1 • Business 920-743-9984 • Fax: 920-743-9984

TESTIMONY BY: Allin V. Walker, 8715 Orchard Rd., Fish Creek, WI 54212

IN REGARD TO: Reformed SB107 Amendment to Child Custody Laws

September 1, 1999

Good morning. Thank you for giving me a chance to address the Committee.

I am Allin Walker, the Director of HELP of Door County- a multi-program human service agency located in Sturgeon Bay. We provide services to families in crisis, victims of abuse, youth runaways, and people with nowhere else to turn. We operate a 24 hour HELpline, a Transitional Living House, a network of safe-houses, a Violence Free Relationship Training for Teens program and are part of the coalition of groups that oversee an Alternative To Violence group for men who batter.

More importantly, I am the father of two sons ages 13 and 10- in the jargon, I am the non-custodial father of two sons who live in the Chicago area. My absence from their lives on a daily basis is painful to me every day of every week of every month of every year, although I see them on an average of once every two weeks. I have open visitation rights that I negotiate for each visit with their mother, my ex-wife.

My absence from my son's lives is the result of a bitter divorce over 7 years ago. There was no charge of abuse or violence. I am here this morning to say that the worst thing that could have happened to my two sons is that their mother and I would have had joint legal custody of them which was an option for the court. It was vital, whether I liked or disliked the court's decision, that they have a primary parent with the authority to make decisions about their lives regardless of the agreement or disagreement of the other parent.

In my case, my ex-wife has made decisions that we never would have been able to agree on. I have had to live with that and have never missed a single child support and maintenance payment. Had we joint custody, our children would have been forever caught in the middle of the issues that led to the divorce in the first place. In theory, I have the right to reopen the decision and sue for custody if I so choose. That is my ultimate "right."

The court must not abdicate its authority to decide what will be best for the child no matter how imperfect the available information or outcome. Many critical decisions

FOR:

people with nowhere else to turn

families in crisis

parents at wit's end

victims of abuse

kids on the run

neighbors trying to help

schools wanting to be violence free

WE OFFER:

information and resources

intervention and mediation

support

case management and therapy

advocacy

violence free relationships and alternatives to violence training

domestic violence project and legal advocacy

transitional living house

open door runaway service

Caring Close To Home . . .



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page -2- from Allin Walker

regarding child rearing, discipline, house rules, school may have differing philosophical rationales for a variety of options but, as every parent knows, eventually you make the best decision you can and you live with it. You live with the fact that someone else might have made a different decision.

When there are two parents living together, a decision making style is enforced because you are all under one roof and the ground rules apply to one and all- one way or another the children end up in bed at some time. One parent may have won and one lost but a decision was made that did have consequences. In the best cases of joint legal custody, there are two decision-making processes, two roofs and two bedtimes which the child learns to adjust to. In the worst of cases there are no rules, only fights about decision-making and everything else.

For victims of domestic abuse, joint legal custody would necessitate contact and negotiation with a spouse or partner who has violated and often battered them and their children. A presumption that joint legal custody is preferable ignores the reality of families with a history of abuse. It implies the presence of safety and rationality that cannot be assumed ever again. It gives the batter equal standing with the victim before the court. It is a prescription for disaster.

I urge the Committee to defeat Reformed SB107 Amendment to Child Custody Laws. At the present, in cases where joint legal custody is appropriate in the Court's eyes, it can be so stipulated. It is as it should be, one option out of many for the court to consider but not as a presumption of what is best for the children.

Thank you.