

19.20
SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 6/10/01

BILL NO. 151

SUBJECT

Key Wysocky

(NAME)

5437 N. SMITH MONICA BLVD

(Street Address or Route Number)

WHTITESIDE BAY, WI 53217

(City and Zip Code)

US SCOUTS BOYS OF AMERICA
CHUDRON

(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: 6/5/01

BILL NO. SB151

SUBJECT

CAROL MEDARIS

WIS. Council on Children
(NAME) & Families

16 W. Carroll St.
(Street Address or Route Number)

Madison, WI 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: 6-5-01

BILL NO. SB151

SUBJECT

Clair Miederholt

(NAME)

5746 Vera Rd
(Street Address or Route Number)

Waukegan 53597
(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: 6/5/2001

BILL NO. SB 151
OR

SUBJECT _____

Bryan Holland

(NAME)

1808 W 4th Ave

(Street Address or Route Number)

Manroe, WI 53566

(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: 6/5/01

BILL NO. SB 151
OR

SUBJECT _____

MIKE BESTA

(NAME)

5721 TUDOR DR

(Street Address or Route Number)

MADISON WI 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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Senate Sergeant-At-Arms
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SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: June 5, 2001

BILL NO. Senate Bill 151
OR

SUBJECT _____

Jacquelyn Boggess

(NAME)

23 N. Pinkney # 210

(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: 6/5/01

BILL NO. SB 151

OR
SUBJECT Child Support

Formula

(NAME) Juan Cooper

(Street Address or Route Number)

215 N 38

(City and Zip Code) Wis Farm. & Conv Assoc.

(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: 6-5-01

BILL NO. 151

OR
SUBJECT _____

Nike Miller

(NAME) 517 W. 32492 Hwy 18 SC

(Street Address or Route Number)

DeLafield WI 53018

(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: 6-5-01

BILL NO. SB151

OR
SUBJECT _____

Connie Chesnik

(NAME) _____

(Street Address or Route Number)

(City and Zip Code) Dept of Workforce Development

(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: 6-5-01

BILL NO. SB 151

OR
SUBJECT _____

Don Hippler
(NAME)

513 W. Mohawk Trl
(Street Address or Route Number)

DeForest WI 53532
(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: 6/5/01

BILL NO. Senate 151

OR
SUBJECT Child Support Reform

Jeff Klein
(NAME)

9508 W. North Ave
(Street Address or Route Number)

Wauwatosa, WI 53226
(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: 6/5/01

BILL NO. SB 151

OR
SUBJECT Child Support

James Novak
(NAME)

2116 Monroe St
(Street Address or Route Number)

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

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 6-5-2001

BILL NO. SB 151 / SB 1005

OR
SUBJECT Child Support

Matthew Busan
(NAME)

460 Central
(Street Address or Route Number)

Beloit WI 53511
(City and Zip Code)

(Representing)

Speaking in Favor: 151

Speaking Against: 1005

marked already

Registering in Favor:

but not speaking:

Registering Against:

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: 6/5/01

BILL NO. 151 + 248 (FIXED SUPPORT)

OR
SUBJECT _____

Sperry Wilde
(NAME)

3347 Douglas Av
(Street Address or Route Number)

Provençal WI 53402
(City and Zip Code)

(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:

but not speaking:

Registering Against:

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: June 5, 2001

BILL NO. 151 + 248 (FIXED SUPPORT)

OR
SUBJECT _____

Geoffrey Wilde
(NAME)

3564 Douglas Ave #310
(Street Address or Route Number)

Reine, WI 53402
(City and Zip Code)

(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:

but not speaking:

Registering Against:

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: 6/5/01

BILL NO. SB 151

OR

SUBJECT Child Support

FREMUEL

TAN RAZ

(NAME)

10120 W Forest Home Ave
(Street Address or Route Number)

HALES CENSUS, WI 53130
(City and Zip Code)

W Forest Home Ave
(Representing) FREMUEL

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: 6-5-01

BILL NO. SB 151

OR

SUBJECT Child support

reform

(NAME)

Joseph Vaughn
(Street Address or Route Number)

6909 N. Cedar St # 35
(City and Zip Code)

Fansville, Wis. 53536
(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: 6.5.01

BILL NO. SB 151

OR

SUBJECT _____

Michael S. Serpe

(NAME)

1010 St 4th St.
(Street Address or Route Number)

Kenosha 53140
(City and Zip Code)

Kenosha County
(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: June 5, 2001

BILL NO. S.B. 151

OR
SUBJECT Child Support

Rep. John Answorth

(NAME) John Answorth
Assembly District

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

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 6-5-01

BILL NO. 151

OR
SUBJECT Child Support

Paul Miller

(NAME) Paul Miller
139 Parwood Circle

(Street Address or Route Number)

(City and Zip Code) Madison WI 53717

(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: 6-5-01

BILL NO. SB 151

OR
SUBJECT Child Support

Patti Segre

(NAME) Patti Segre
WI Coalition Against

(Street Address or Route Number)

(City and Zip Code) Madison WI 53717

(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: 10-5-01

BILL NO. 151

OR
SUBJECT _____

Bill Groblauski
(NAME)

1410 Williamson #5
(Street Address or Route Number)

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

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: June 5, 2001

BILL NO. SB 151

OR
SUBJECT Child Support

Calculation

Janet Nelson
(NAME)

901 N. 9th 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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State Capitol - B35 South
P.O.Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 6/5/01

BILL NO. SB 151

OR
SUBJECT _____

Ernie E. Richmond
(NAME)

320 S Main St - Box 219
(Street Address or Route Number)

Jefferson WI 53549
(City and Zip Code)

(Representing) WISSEA

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: 6/5/01

BILL NO. SB 151
OR

SUBJECT _____

(NAME) Margaret Wrenn Hokey

(Street Address or Route Number)

(City and Zip Code)

Family Law Section
(Representing) State Bar of WI

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: 6/5/01

BILL NO. SB 151
OR

SUBJECT _____

(NAME) Tom Peffer

(Street Address or Route Number)

(City and Zip Code)

Madison
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 Committee on Judiciary, Consumer Affairs and Campaign
Finance Reform**

Request for Paper Ballot Executive Action on 2001 Senate Bill 151

The Senate Committee on Judiciary, Consumer Affairs and Campaign Finance Reform was unable to hold a formal Executive Session on Senate Bill 151 as planned. We would like to conduct a paper ballot on the bill. **Please return your ballot to Sen. George's office (Room 118 South) by 2:30 PM Monday, March 11, 2002.**

Passage of Senate Bill 151:

_____ Moved (Optional -- Please check if you wish to Move
Passage of the Bill)

_____ Seconded (Optional -- Please check if you wish to Second
Passage of the Bill)

 X Aye (In Favor of Passage of the Bill)

_____ No (Oppose Passage of the Bill)

Signed: Joanne Heelsman Monday, March 11, 2002

By PR via phone

Please return to Sen. George's Office by 2:30 PM Monday, March 11, 2002 .

**Senate Committee on Judiciary, Consumer Affairs and Campaign
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Passage of Senate Bill 151:

_____ Moved (Optional -- Please check if you wish to Move
Passage of the Bill)

_____ Seconded (Optional -- Please check if you wish to Second
Passage of the Bill)

_____ **Aye** (In Favor of Passage of the Bill)

_____ **No** (Oppose Passage of the Bill)

Signed: Robert W. Ulrich

Monday, March 11, 2002

Please return to Sen. George's Office by 2:30 PM Monday, March 11, 2002 .

**Senate Committee on Judiciary, Consumer Affairs and Campaign
Finance Reform**

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Passage of Senate Bill 151:

_____ Moved (Optional -- Please check if you wish to Move
Passage of the Bill)

_____ Seconded (Optional -- Please check if you wish to Second
Passage of the Bill)

_____ **Aye** (In Favor of Passage of the Bill)

✓ _____ **No** (Oppose Passage of the Bill)

Signed: Frank Resser Monday, March 11, 2002
ca

Please return to Sen. George's Office by 2:30 PM Monday, March 11, 2002 .

**Senate Committee on Judiciary, Consumer Affairs and Campaign
Finance Reform**

Request for Paper Ballot Executive Action on 2001 Senate Bill 151

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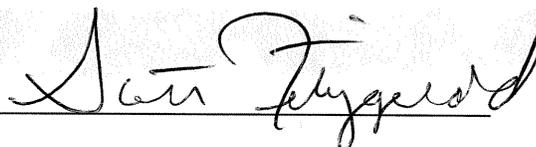
Passage of Senate Bill 151:

_____ Moved (Optional -- Please check if you wish to Move
Passage of the Bill)

_____ Seconded (Optional -- Please check if you wish to Second
Passage of the Bill)

_____ **Aye** (In Favor of Passage of the Bill)

_____ **No** (Oppose Passage of the Bill)

Signed:  Monday, March 11, 2002

Please return to Sen. George's Office by 2:30 PM Monday, March 11, 2002 .

**Senate Committee on Judiciary, Consumer Affairs and Campaign
Finance Reform**

Request for Paper Ballot Executive Action on 2001 Senate Bill 151

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Passage of Senate Bill 151:

_____ Moved (Optional -- Please check if you wish to Move
Passage of the Bill)

_____ Seconded (Optional -- Please check if you wish to Second
Passage of the Bill)

_____ **Aye** (In Favor of Passage of the Bill)

_____ **No** (Oppose Passage of the Bill)

Signed: _____

Gayle R. George

Monday, March 11, 2002

Please return to Sen. George's Office by 2:30 PM Monday, March 11, 2002 .

June 6, 2001

Senator Gary George
Room 118 South
State Capitol
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

RE: Written Testimony regarding SB 151

Dear Senator George:

I would first like to say that I attended the hearing yesterday at the capitol and appreciate the opportunity to submit written testimony due to the time restraints.

I strongly favor Senate Bill 151. I was a bit surprised by some of the testimony in yesterdays hearing that opposed the bill. One woman representing the DADS organization felt that this bill would hurt the low income paying fathers. This bill is for incomes in excess of \$4000 per month, not the low incomes. The low-income fathers would remain exactly where they are. This bill is to stop penalizing higher income fathers and rewarding mothers with alimony disguised as child support. It is proven that after a yearly income of \$40,000 the percentage of income spent on a child actually decreases but in Wisconsin the child support percentage remains the same regardless of income.

The Wisconsin child support statute states that both parents have a responsibility to support a child. When the child support amount becomes excessive the responsibility of the custodial parent is removed. She no longer has to contribute because the child support is more than enough. This bill supports the belief that both parents have an obligation to support the child and takes BOTH incomes into consideration when calculating the support amount. That is the way it should be. Currently the father can go to school and work hard to better himself in his career and the mother can sit back and collect the rewards. If she wants to have a higher income coming into the house it is HER responsibility to better herself the way the father has. This is not the fathers' responsibility.

Of the people who verbally testified yesterday, no one spoke of the part of the bill that would change how days are calculated. This is also extremely important. Currently if the father provides for the child the entire day, feeding all three meals but takes the child back to its mothers at night, the mother gets the credit for the day because the child sleeps there. How is this fair? She provided none of the care for the child. Mothers are very aware of this through their attorneys and it influences the amount of placement the father is awarded. The mothers do not want their support reduced and will not give the father additional time to assure that doesn't happen. That hurts the father-child relationship.

When I talk to people who have not had to directly deal with Wisconsin divorce and child support laws, they are totally appalled at how unfair the laws are for the fathers. It seems that for many years everyone heard about "deadbeat dads" and the poor single mothers who couldn't financially take care of her kids and now this image still remains in people's heads and so they don't realize there is another side to this coin. The child support statute states that a judge can deviate from the state guideline as long as he states the reason why. I have never heard of any judge willing to do that. The law needs to be changed disparately.

A lot of people seem to think that the fathers pay child support and that's where it ends. In most cases that is not true. Most fathers also pay for the medical and dental insurance which can be in excess of \$100 a month, daycare costs which can be \$50-\$800 a month and the extras that come up such as soccer, music lessons and other things that can come up with kids. It is never done with paying child support.

In my husband's case, he pays his exwife \$704 a month for one child, covers all medical and dental (\$100 per month) and daycare. His exwife pays nothing for their child. A friend of mine pays \$2000 a month for 3 kids. \$2000 a month! His exwife does not work because she feels he "owes" her. Does this keep the children in the same standard of living? Of course not. When the only money coming into the house is child support it is not enough. If his support was lowered she would be forced to get a job, like when they were married and contribute to raising their children.

Good parents should be awarded 50/50 placement so the children have equal time with both of their parents. This bill would take away the financial incentive for mothers to keep the children from the fathers by reducing placement days. Passing this bill is the fairest thing Wisconsin can do for divorced fathers. These fathers are not running out of their responsibility to take care of their kids. Please stop punishing them by allowing excessive child support to continue.

Sincerely,

Stacey Wilde
3564 Douglas Av.
Racine, WI 53402


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Subj: FW: Testimony from Tuesdays Senate Judiciary committee hearing on SB 151
 Date: Wed, 6 Jun 2001 11:45:01 PM Eastern Daylight Time
 From: "Cooley, William" <William.Cooley@legis.state.wi.us>
 To: GGeorge220@aol.com

 Includ
 original te
 in Reply


Reply

 [6-5-01SenatJudgiciarycommiteehearing.doc](#) (13312 bytes)


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-----Original Message-----

From: Bryan Holland [mailto:bryan@computerheroes.com]
 Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2001 10:06 PM
 To: Sen.George@legis.state.wi.us
 Subject: Testimony from Tuesdays Senate Judiciary committee hearing on SB 151



Forward

Dear Senator George:

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns on Tuesday. Per the committee's request, here is the copy of my testimony. I have also attached a copy in MS-Word format in case your e-mail software does not support the format I sent the message in. Please contact me if you have any questions. My contact info is at the bottom of this message.



Address Book

Thanks again,
 Bryan Holland

SB 151 Testimony from Bryan Holland, Monroe, WI
 Children that grow up in split families face many hardships. Many do not get to benefit from the love of both their mother and father on a daily basis. We have finally recognized this with last years changes to physical placement standards. A split family becomes even more challenging when the parents are adversaries in a child custody case. Child support is the cause of many conflicts between parents in a divorce or paternity case. The current DWD 40 standard is not fair to both parents. More often than not one parent walks away with a huge financial prize, that exceeds the realistic costs of raising children. The other parent, too often the father, is left with a financial burden, that limits their ability to contribute directly to the lives of their children. In many cases these parents are not able to contribute directly to later born children, because of a previous support obligation. The serial family provisions of SB 151 correct this problem, so that children are supported equally regardless of their birth order. The changes in SB151 consider the incomes of both parents, and considers the realistic economic needs of children. Another problem of the current system is that it provides an incentive not to work. The current svstem is a "winner take all" svstem and the winner is often

left with sufficient means to survive without full-time employment. Secondly, because of the unfairness of current standards, a parent paying support is often hesitant to take overtime or promotions, because they receive little benefit for their additional efforts. SB 151 provides for a fairer standard. Fairness translates directly into lower levels of adversity between parents. Lastly, I would like to mention that opponents say that this bill is going to hurt low income families. This is not the case. The existing support standards (17% for 1 child, 25-2, 29-3, 31-4, 34-5) are retained in this bill for families with a combined gross monthly income of \$4000 or less. This bill only effects families with the means and ability to provide for their children.

=====
 Bryan Holland
 1808 16th Ave
 Monroe, WI 53566
 home 608-329-3673
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 From: "Cooley, William" <William.Cooley@legis.state.wi.us>
 To: GGeorge220@aol.com
 Subject: FW: Testimony from Tuesdays Senate Judiciary committee hearing on SB 151
 Date: Wed, 6 Jun 2001 22:46:02 -0500
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Subj: FW: SB 151 - further information and testimony....
 Date: Thu, 7 Jun 2001 6:48:23 PM Eastern Daylight Time
 From: "Cooley, William" <William.Cooley@legis.state.wi.us>
 To: GGeorge220@aol.com

Good letter from one who you had at the hearing on SB 151.

-----Original Message-----

From: Michael B. [mailto:m_bestul@hotmail.com]
 Sent: Thursday, June 07, 2001 4:06 PM
 To: sen.george@legis.state.wi.us
 Cc: jraz@wi.rr.com
 Subject: SB 151 - further information and testimony....

Dear Senator George,

Thank you for allowing me to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee on June 5 regarding my support for SB 151. I have to say that it was an eye-opening experience.

I was stunned at the extreme gender lines drawn around this issue, and did not expect to find the biases that I did. Not one woman anywhere came forward and was willing to point out how unethical and unfair the current child support laws in our state are. On the other hand, all the proponents of fairness under SB 151 were men, many of who apparently have suffered far more than I under the current laws.

I spoke with some of these men after the hearing. Just for the record, I am not one of the "father's rights" crowd - this was the first time I have ever encountered them as a group face-to-face.

One guy had apparently been held to a percentage order even after he changed jobs that made it virtually impossible for him to provide support and still survive. After falling behind, he was almost ordered into jail in Dane County (during the Christmas season no less) and he had to liquidate securities and other assets to provide funds to his ex-wife far in excess of

what she actually needed to support the children to stay out of jail. Meanwhile, he is practically starving and only able to provide minimal accommodations for his children when they come to visit. The differential in lifestyle is appalling.

Another guy I know of in my neighborhood that is divorced with two kids has fallen on some bad times. His health has deteriorated and he was forced to

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go on SSI. However, he is still obligated to pay child support and provide health insurance (according to his divorce settlement) to his ex-wife. (The ex-wife is remarried and stable, and the family has a house, new cars, and is seemingly quite well off.) This poor man has been forced to leave Wisconsin, live with his parents, and sacrifice any sense of meaningful life until his health recovers and he can start working again - all because there is no exception made for his case in our current system of "justice". Now he doesn't see his kids at all, because he can't even live in Wisconsin and can't afford to travel or have them travel to see him - he's got all he can do just to keep paying the health insurance premiums without going to jail for contempt.

When I think of my own situation, bad as it is, it pales by comparison to these other, much greater injustices. But I will tell you about my own situation anyway, in hope that something can be done.

I am considered a "high income person" because my salary is over \$100,000 per year. But in Dane County, I'm not given any sort of break for this and still pay a percentage order of 17% to my ex-wife. My ex-wife is remarried and makes over \$45,000 per year herself. I see my daughter about 40% of the

time, but my ex-wife's income is not figured into the child support calculation, so I get no break there either. Then there's the whole concept

of "variable costs" applied over everything. I ask you - what is my child support of nearly \$19,000 per year for if it doesn't cover everything imaginable for a 10-year-old child? Please understand that I'm not trying to dodge supporting my daughter - I wish she were with me ALL the time, but I realize that's not possible. However, in sharing time with her I do wish that some equity and justice could be applied to how costs are shared and some reasonableness about how much it really takes to provide basic care and support for a child regardless of financial circumstances (rich or poor).

I am also remarried. The relevance of that is contained in the paragraph below.

When I look at the concept of uniform state code, I can tell you that my current wife who was married and divorced from her first husband in Ohio receives a very different sort of child support award. Her ex-husband makes

even more money than me, NEVER sees his son at all, and pays about half of what I pay per month in child support. Her income is figured in to the support calculation in Ohio even when the shared time (on his part) is 0%. She told the Ohio child support people about how things worked here in Wisconsin for my case, and they were utterly appalled. Also, there is no concept of "variable costs" applied over everything. I present this information to you because there is no way that one can look at the state of

Ohio as some backwater, southern holdout where traditional welfare payments and support for children has been at ridiculously low levels. Ohio is, in fact, a very progressive, liberal state - but one where the concept of gender bias and destroying men in the process of divorce is not sanctioned as it apparently is here in Wisconsin by our DWD and its policies/mis-interpretation of the legislature's intent.

Senator George, if you can make any sense of all this PLEASE PLEASE use it to bring down this current and unjust child support system in our state. Help Wisconsin to live up to its standard of fairness and doing the right thing for all citizens, men, women, children, regardless of race or creed - EVERYONE. Please share this correspondence with the other members of the committee on my behalf.

In conclusion, I have to say that I was most disappointed and utterly amazed at the single minded attitudes on the part of the "official women" in attendance - the DWD representatives, the court commissioner's representatives, the county representatives, and the women advocates for domestic violence cases. They were all interested in preserving the status quo, in delaying true justice, in not being willing to think outside the box, and in general advocating very anti-family, anti-male type of policies.

It is a bit like the whole "drug war" thing - once the apparatus is in place and the flywheel starts spinning, it is very difficult to stop it because someone is making money on perpetuating human misery and injustice.

That's how I think of the DWD and its policies. The only support your bills received from them was on SB 106 because it helped preserve their budget from the feds.

The disappointment came in for me because I'm not an "anti-woman" kind of guy, and I generally have always supported equal opportunity, equal rights, and have advocated for women's groups in the past on gender and domestic violence issues at the voting booth, and in my own strongly held personal beliefs. So I was disappointed to see how manipulative and conniving the "official women" were at the hearing - and it wasn't just because they didn't agree with my position. It clearly went far deeper with these women,

desparately trying to preserve a system of injustice that punishes men and destroys families. Holding up arguments about "case law" as if making any change to the system would somehow undo their entire belief system - which it clearly would.

Essentially the federal government has Wisconsin in their crosshairs resulting from all the obvious unfairness and unresponsiveness in our system

to the years of complaints, and they are finally calling our bluff. Time for Wisconsin to stop standing out from the crowd on institutionalized policies of injustice, going our own way proudly and blindly even when it is

clearly wrong out of some perversion of the "Wisconsin Idea", and coming to some uniformity on child support with our neighboring states and the rest of the nation.

Thank you for listening to me - on June 5, and for taking the time to read this statement. I am at your service if there is anything further I can do to assist you in the passage of legislation that will strike down this evil system. We need a revolution in thinking on this issue, and I applaud you for advocating these changes and daring to bring this topic before the public. Thank you Senator George!

- Michael J. Bestul
5721 Tudor Dr.
Madison, WI 53711

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Subj: FW: Senate Hearing on SB 151, make up of the DWD committee studyi ng
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 Date: Mon, 11 Jun 2001 6:39:04 PM Eastern Daylight Time
 From: "Cooley, William" <William.Cooley@legis.state.wi.us>
 To: GGeorge220@aol.com

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-----Original Message-----

From: Jim Novak [mailto:buyright@execpc.com]**Sent:** Saturday, June 09, 2001 5:24 PM**To:** Sen.George@legis.state.wi.us**Subject:** Fw: Senate Hearing on SB 151, make up of the DWD committee studying child support, and the state bar bill on child support

Dear Senator George

Thanks for holding the hearing on SB 151.

Of those who testified, interestingly all men testified for the bill and all women testified against the bill. Men are 90 % of those who pay child support. Only 10 % of women pay child support. Is it any wonder that this is a polarized issue between men and women? Since Wisconsin's child support rule was implemented as gender politics by Connie Chesnic under the tutelage of Becky Young in the 1980's, this imbalance rule has been allowed to sour divorcing couples for almost two decades. Finally the day is coming where everyone realizes that reform is needed. WDW was meant to be child support, not a new form of alimony. We passed progressive laws as regards no fault divorce and marital property. It's time that the child support laws have full input from the payers.

Clair Weidierholt testified that the committee appointed by WDW to study child support is gender biased, based on a committee loaded up with women who do not pay and by few men who do pay. Considering how men and women differed in their testimony, is there any doubt what this committee would recommend.

I have just read the Family Law's Section's of the State Bar LRB on child support. Now I know why they did not incorporate any fathers into their discussions as had been done under previous leadership in past years. The bill expands the possibilities of adversarial law-it's a lawyers' heaven. The bill is a continuation of the same tired imbalances that are found in the present child support rule.

SB 151 is balanced, is closer to what the vast majority of states use, considers the income of both parties as state law already mandates in theory, but which became skewered by WDW 40, and is just to both adult parties, and bottom line, maximizes the income available to the child, except the income does not pass through the hands of the government, nor do the parties have to have their assets eaten up by attorneys. No surprise that the bar's LRB would come from attorneys. It truly is a "best interest of the attorney" bill.

Please support SB 151 and any other true reforms of our child support system.

Jim Novak

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Geoff Wilde
3564 Douglas Ave #310
Racine, WI 53402

June 25, 2001

Dear Senator:

I am writing this letter to be added as testimony for both Senate Bills 106 and 151, if possible. I am in favor of both bills, and would strongly recommend both bills be passed at the same time, as others have suggested. In writing this letter, I wanted to present factual information, rather than sounding like a whining father who doesn't want to pay child support. I decided to present to you the emotional aspect of the current child support standards, since emotions are invaluable and incalculable.

I am divorced, and the father of a 9 year old son. I earn a decent wage, work a decent job, and live a decent life. I pay federal and state taxes, and am working diligently with my new wife to re-establish my life. We pay all our bills on time, and are working towards building a house of our own. I mention all these things because they are the gauges on which society judges us. In working hard for all the things in my life worth having, I am troubled when the government all but enables the custodian of a supported child to earn a less than adequate wage. They do this by enforcing unfair support orders, using inadequate and antiquated support calculations, and resisting the change in society that most other states have recognized as contemporary. Below is a passage from our state law books, article 765.001(2), which states:

"Each spouse has an equal obligation in accordance with his or her ability to contribute money or services or both which are necessary for the adequate support and maintenance of his or her minor children and of the other spouse. No spouse may be presumed primarily liable for support expenses"

In my situation, I have consistently earned over 70% of the combined family income, both during and after the marriage. Following the divorce, my wages have risen twice; and taken 2 different

positions, both times adding responsibility and accountability. In all cases, I knew my progress and success would benefit my son more than it would me, since the percentage-based support order automatically increased the amount given to my son. Unfortunately, when the support increased, his home environment and childhood opportunities did not change. At one point, my son couldn't participate in a \$5.00 a week martial arts class because his mom couldn't afford it. With the money paid out to my ex in support, I didn't want to further enable her to not care for my son and his needs.

My son, unfortunately, has not seen the benefit of my success. According to another passage from the statute, this is the goal of child support- to keep the minor child in a manner as if the marriage were still intact. Since the divorce, my ex-wife has moved into a low-income neighborhood, neglected to pay bills, and deprived my son the ability to participate in social activities. The manner in which he is living now is below any living standard we had as a married couple. His living conditions are below what he should have, given the amount of support I pay to his mother.

By passing both senate bill 106, and bill 151, the table could turn in my son's favor. With money staying in my household, social needs as well as living standards could be met and exceeded. My wife and I have already agreed that any reduction in support would immediately benefit my son by enabling us to enroll him in extra-curricular activities or classes that will benefit him socially. He will live in a neighborhood where he isn't afraid to play outside, or find alcohol or bottles on the front lawn. He will have children of equal stature that he can associate with, and relate to.

Unfortunately, if the standard isn't changed, his mother can continue to spend child support money on anything she chooses, claiming all the money she receives is spent on my son. In looking at his surroundings, and how he is clothed and sheltered, I would know differently. If the standard isn't changed, there is no way for my son to truly benefit from my success, or the success of my marriage; nor is there any incentive for my ex-wife to better her self, thereby bettering my son.

June 25, 2001

I sincerely hope that senate bill 106 and senate bill 151 are passed into law, and give the payors back control of how their wages are spent on their children. I hope the payees are forced to realize they have a responsibility to their children, not just emotionally, but financially as well. I hope this happens while there is still time to undo any damage that may have been done to these children. I hope the state and all its departments that support the welfare of children recognize how this bill affects one of our state's most precious resources, and does what is right for the children.

Sincerely,

Geoff Wilde