

PROPONENT TESTIMONY - HB508

TESTIMONY Ethan McPherson

CIVIL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 134TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

MARCH 8, 2022

Chairman Hillyer and members of the House Civil Justice Committee,

My name is Ethan McPherson, I am a 17-year-old senior in high school, and I live with my parents 50/50.

My parents got divorced when I was 10, and they settled upon equal shared parenting. Growing up with both around equally helped a lot more mentally because I wasn't stuck missing or feeling that I needed one parent more. With both parents being around I was able to ignore it and more forward feeling normal.

As a teenager, almost an adult, I cannot fathom how much more difficult it would've been to keep moving if I were to only have one main parent there. To have the support of two people that you know will always have your back is exponentially better than having one part time and the other full. The difference is night and day when comparing mental health and attitude.

I support this bill because 50/50 works and I believe that the standard should be higher in order to give more kids the ability to be more supported growing up.

Thank you for allowing me to share my story. I would be happy to answer questions if you have any.

Ethan McPherson