

PROPONENT TESTIMONY - HB508

TESTIMONY OF Mark Ludwig

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CIVIL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 134TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Chairman Hillyer, Vice Chair Grendell, Ranking Member Galonski and members of the House Civil Justice Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on HB508.

My name is Mark Ludwig and I am the Founder of Americans for Equal Shared Parenting. After my story was featured on TV and went viral, I began to be contacted by literally thousands of non-custodial parents in similar situations. My FB Live videos have literally been viewed in the tens of millions of times which tells me that this is an issue that resonates with people across the country.

The current 'winner take all' system creates an adversarial relationship between parents who feel compelled to win at all costs instead of learning how to collaborate as equal partners in raising children.

This system creates confusion in children who do not understand why one parent is treated as an unequal/inferior parent and the children feel like a visitor to that parent.

There is currently a wave of equal shared parenting legislation occurring across the country. Arkansas, Kentucky, Texas, Missouri, Tennessee and Oklahoma have all passed recent legislation which is leaning this direction and over 25 other states have had similar legislation introduced.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you again for allowing me to provide testimony on HB 508. I would be happy to answer any questions.