HB1036: Child Custody - Relocation of Child - Expedited Hearing
Favorable Testimony

Good Afternoon Chairman Clippinger, Vice Chairmen Moon and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee. I am pleased and grateful to testify in support of House Bill 1036. My name is Peter Bendel and I am a retired Wildlife Biologist, parent of three, grandparent of three and great grandparent of four.

House Bill 1036 in my opinion will helps to accomplish the following: maintain relationships between parent and child; reduce the vindictive use of children; help to maintain extended family relationships with grandparents, etc.

I can tell you from personal experience that my family has dealt with this very issue. Our grandson and his girlfriend had a child at a young age. The relationship didn't lasts and there is still some contention nine years later. Both individuals are good parents to their child. However, there have been times that the mother has threatened to leave the state. If it wasn't for the courts intervention with custody rights for my Grandson, my family may not have the wonderfully close relationships with our great grandson. The child has also benefited greatly from the loving influence of our Daughter, his grandmother. Even though my grandson and his ex do not see eye to eye they appear to have matured, and get along better for the sake of the child. This may not have happened if the courts did not set some boundaries regarding moving out of state or far away.

The first priority of our society is to look after the welfare of the children. Studies show that having both parents involved in the child's life is paramount to good mental and emotional health.

Grandparents and great grandparents have little to no rights in the eyes of the court. Our society has been breaking down for years. This bill in one small way may helps keep the fabric of families together. In my opinion that's a good thing.

Sincerely,
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