

EXHIBIT 2
DATE 2/3/09
SB 108

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 108
House Judiciary Committee
02/03/09

Presented by:
ROGER A. HAGAN
Officer Association of the Montana National Guard

Mr. Chairman and members of the House Judiciary Committee, The Montana National Guard Association (Officers) strongly supports this bill and had it as one of their initiatives for this session. Thanks to Senator Jent and the Department of Military Affairs for taking this very important issue on. This bill will bring a level of assurance to our deploying Soldiers and Airmen as they prepare for the next mobilization.

Many of our members meet with a very stressful situation when they get a notification of deployment. Add to that a parenting plan that is either not fully developed or the plan does not provide for other family members to have visitation in the absence of the military member. Either one of these scenarios can lead to protracted legal battle waged just before deployment or following a member's return from deployment.

This is a good bill and will go a long way to relieve the stress that some of our divorced members encounter while they are preparing for and are actually in a combat zone. As many of you may know our Soldiers and Airmen need to have their "heads in the game" in the war zone and not be distracted by child custody issues back home.

We urge your strong support for this bill and again thank Senator Jent for his actions.