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HB 2147
Committee on Judiciary
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SUPPORT

Chairman Barker and Members of the Committee:

This testimony is submitted today on behalf of the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence in general support of HB 2147. The Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (KCSDV) is a statewide non-profit organization whose membership is the 29 sexual and domestic violence programs serving victims across Kansas.

HB 2147 amends the Protection from Stalking Act and the Protection from Abuse Act and creates the Protection from Stalking and Sexual Assault Act, filling a gap that has long existed in current protection orders. Sexual violence degrades, humiliates and terrorizes its victims. These victims need safety and protection – just as domestic violence and stalking victims do.

Victims of sexual assault understandably fear for their safety after an assault, but many are unable to obtain a protection order. If the perpetrator is not a family member nor has ever been in a qualifying relationship with the victim, the victim does not qualify for a Protection from Abuse order. If the assault was a single act, the victim does not qualify for a Protection from Stalking order. This gap in available protections within our current law must be changed.

Sexual assault is the most underreported crime in the United States. In the absence of criminal sanctions against perpetrators, victims turn to civil protection orders to increase their safety. KCSDV strongly supports HB 2147 because it would allow all victims of sexual assault to receive these protections.

Submitted by,
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