



Senate Bill # 71
Senate Judiciary Committee Meeting
Room 346
January 29, 2025, 10:30 a.m.

Chair Warren and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in favor of Senate Bill # 71. We believe the passage of this bill is very important, as its intention is to address sex trafficking in Kansas in a more effective way than current law provides. In short, it increases fines, mandates sexual exploitation/anti-trafficking educational programs, and increases the consequence of sex buying to felony status.

For those of us who have been addressing interpersonal violence for the long haul, I want to remind you that there was a time in the early 1990's when a similar pursuit of justice for victims brought stronger consequences for those who were using domestic violence. It was only after the law was changed that arrests started happening, batterer intervention programs were developed and implemented, and community task forces emerged that helped communities take a stand against domestic violence. That later led to the development of certified domestic violence programs across the state. In 2015, when the Kansas Attorney General's Batterer Intervention Program (BIP) Advisory Board researched outcomes with the assistance of the Office of Judicial Administration, it was found that 88% of 2012 completers of certified Kansas BIPs were not charged with another person crime nearly 3 years later, and 91% did not have another protection order placed against them in that same time frame.¹

Just as we have prevented much abuse by addressing domestic violence more seriously, we have the ability to effectively address human trafficking through the passage of this legislation. I urge your serious consideration in creating effective accountability for those buying sex in Kansas.

Sincerely,

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¹*Batterer Intervention Program Advisory Board BIP Program Evaluation Study Report*, February 2016, Office of the Attorney General.

<https://www.ag.ks.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/10338/638460276489970000>