

January 27, 2012

Judiciary Committee  
Kansas State Senate

Dear Judiciary Committee Members,

Please consider this letter and testimony as my strong support for Senate Bill 304. It is my belief that the BIP Certification Act is a positive step forward in protecting victims and reducing the cycle of domestic violence. My name is Curt Brungardt, Voss Professor of Leadership Studies at Fort Hays State University. Most importantly however, and the reason why I am here today, is that I co-chair the Batterer Intervention Program Advisory Board for Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt.

Sadly, I come to this service work after the death of my step-daughter. On July 3, 2008, Jana Mackey was murdered by her ex-boyfriend in Lawrence. Since that time, her mother and I have been actively engaged in Kansas and nationally to reduce domestic and dating violence. During this time I have had the pleasure of working directly with both Attorney Generals' Steve Six and Derek Schmidt to improve Batterers Intervention Programs (BIP) for our state. In addition, I have received BIP training in the states of Colorado, Kansas and Missouri. I have also spent this last year attending and participating in numerous BIP counseling sessions with domestic violence abusers.

In all of this work, I am more convinced than ever that certifying quality BIP programs is an absolute must to ensure positive program outcomes. I believe that the certified standards that we have in place here in Kansas are a good step in the right direction to improving these programs. In my opinion, program duration, quality assessment and strong qualifications of BIP facilitators are crucial to overall success.

Now, I would welcome any questions you may have.

Dr. Curt Brungardt