

January 27, 2012

The Senate Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to request your support of SB304 during this legislative session.

This important legislation creates a batterer intervention program certification unit in the Attorney General's Office and is needed to ensure the consistent and effective delivery of proven Batterer's Intervention Program (BIP) Services throughout the State. This is essential to ensure victims are not exposed to heightened danger from persons who abused them and later attend BIP. Moreover, I believe this will increase the likelihood that perpetrators of domestic violence who participate in group BIP counseling will improve their chances of learning new and permanent coping skills in dealing with normal family stress and conflict, no matter to whom they are partnered or married.

During my 32 years in law enforcement, 7 as chief of police, I have been involved at every level of comprehensive Domestic Violence (DV) service delivery, training, policy development, curriculum development used by the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center, DV grant writing and grant administration; and the creation of the first BIP in Franklin County. Currently, I serve on the Attorney General's BIP Advisory Board and formerly on the Governor's subcommittee for DV Training.

BIP is another tool to address violent crime where it occurs most often, in the home. With your support, legislation contained in SB304 will ensure it done safely and effectively.

Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis P. Butler  
Chief of Police