

February 6, 2012

Dear Senator Owens;

As you know the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (KCSDV) provides training, technical assistance and best practice information to many programs and entities across the state regarding sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking.

Senate Bill 91 seeks to require that emergency contraception (EC) information be provided to victims of sexual assault by various professionals as well as by advocates providing sexual assault services. Upon learning that SB91 is scheduled for a hearing, KCSDV began reviewing information regarding EC in Kansas, how advocates and sexual assault nurse examiners (SANEs) are being trained on EC, and whether victims are being provided with information on EC both in writing and when being provided services. Unfortunately, we are still gathering information at this time and did not have it ready to submit as formal testimony for tomorrow morning's hearing.

Here is what we have found:

- Advocates working in sexual assault and domestic violence programs are trained on EC and when and how to provide this information to victims; this training is provided when they attend the KCSDV Sexual Assault Advocacy Course;
- SANEs are trained to provide EC information to victims when appropriate (victim is post-menarchal female, not already pregnant at the time of the assault, treatment provided within 5 days of the assault) when they attend the courses offered by KCSDV for these professionals and community partners (KCSDV coordinates all training and technical assistance for SANEs in Kansas);
- SANE programs across the state that have indicated to KCSDV that EC is regularly provided to victims either directly or they are provided with information about the risk of pregnancy and of methods of prophylaxis;
- In a frequently-asked-question document for victims that is included in the KBI sexual assault forensic evidence collection kit, victims are told that the medical professional will discuss pregnancy prevention with them at the time of the exam;
- In KCSDV's publication "Know Your Rights: A Guide for Survivors of Sexual Assault in Kansas," that is disseminated widely throughout the state, victims are given information about EC.

While KCSDV understands the desire to make sure that EC is consistently provided to victims of sexual assault in Kansas, I am unsure SB91 is the right avenue for doing so. Additional training and technical assistance to advocates and medical professionals would, I believe, take us further down the road toward making sure EC **and other critical information** is consistently disseminated and provided to survivors of sexual assault. Survivors should have ALL relevant information available to them so that they can make the choices that are so critical to them during this time of crisis.

Thank you for your consideration of this information. Please feel free to share it with the committee.



Joyce Grover
Executive Director

Cc: Kari Ann Rinker, Kansas NOW