

HB 2613
Senate Judiciary Committee
March 8, 2012

PROPONENT

Chairman Owens and Members of the Committee;

I appear today on behalf of the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence in support of HB 2613. 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.

Currently in Kansas, victims of domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking do have access under the law to civil protection orders. However, there are current limitations that exist with these orders. Specifically, current PFA or PFS orders in Kansas are only effective for a maximum period of two years, even with a victim-initiated request to extend the order. Domestic violence and stalking are not crimes of isolated incidents but, rather, of consistent, long-term patterns of physical violence, sexual violence, intimidation, monitoring, isolation, and other tactics. For this reason, victims oftentimes face long-term risks to their safety due to the perpetrator's abuse and therefore often require protection from the perpetrator throughout their lives. HB 2613 provides victims of abuse and stalking with long-term protections and provides the necessary supports to enhance the safety of victims in Kansas.

Additionally, it is not uncommon for perpetrators of abuse and stalking to violate the protective orders issued against them. HB 2613 provides a victim the opportunity to seek an extended order and increase the potential penalty for the abuser or stalker if future violations occur.

Finally, we support the change addressed in the bill that a PFS could be filed where the victim lives, not just where the stalking occurs.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill and KCSDV's comments.

Submitted by,
Sara Rust-Martin
Director of Legal and Policy
KCSDV