



Testimony on HB 2188
Before the House Judiciary Committee
By Mark Schreiber, Chairman of the Board
Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence
February 12, 2013

OPPONENT

Chairman Kinzer and Members of the Committee:

The Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (KCSDV) is a statewide non-profit organization whose membership is the 29 sexual and domestic violence non-profit organizations serving victims across Kansas. Most of these organizations are small non-profits operating on shoestring budgets to serve victims of domestic and sexual violence in Kansas. Some of these victim service organizations either do not have websites or the capacity to comply with the requirements of HB2188. Those that could comply would need to take valuable staff time away from providing victim services in order to do so. Most do not have designated IT staff who could even assist with compliance.

Currently, KCSDV, and the 29 sexual and domestic violence non-profit organizations serving victims in Kansas, are all subject to multiple layers of accountability measures for the public funds they receive. Most of the organizations receive state funds; some also receive federal grant funding. All of them comply with the reporting requirements set by funders. Specifically, these organizations adhere to the following accountability measures:

- undergo annual independent audits which they provide to funders;
- undergo on-site audits by funders where their use of public funds, as well as their fiscal and accounting policies and procedures are closely reviewed;
- submit monthly and quarterly financial reports to funders;
- file 990's with the IRS;
- sign grant assurances that detail what expenditures can and cannot be made with public funds;
- provide back-up documentation to funders for all expenditures as required or requested; and
- submit all proposed budget changes to funders for prior approval.

The requirements of HB2188 are overly burdensome on small non-profit organizations. Additionally, under current law, these non-profit organizations are already accountable for the public funds provided to them. To impose these additional requirements would exhaust the limited resources currently available to these non-profit organizations.

Finally, imposing a requirement for non-profit, victim service organizations to post on a website the names of those to whom they have provided money is not only burdensome but also potentially dangerous. These organizations, as allowed by funders, often purchase items for victims or provide victims in danger with resources to move or flee from the abuse. Oftentimes, these are victims fleeing from an abuser who is actively searching for her and planning to do harm to her. If this abuser can locate her through employee paycheck information, payee information, or other information on the organization's website then we have adopted a law in Kansas that is infringing on the safety of some of its most vulnerable citizens.

With domestic violence and sexual assault homicide numbers running high in Kansas, this is not the time to make locating victims fleeing from abuse easier and it is not the time to overly burden those aimed at helping victims in danger.

I respectfully urge the committee to not advance this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to HB 2188.