



February 11, 2013

Kansas House of Representatives  
House Judiciary Committee

Dear Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

As the Executive Director of SAFEHOME, Johnson County's domestic violence agency, I am writing to share my concerns about the potential impact of H.B. 2188, a bill that would require non-profits to publish details on the agency's website about the expenditure of government funds.

**1. First, H.B. 2188 would require SAFEHOME to take money otherwise used for client services and use it for website and staff expansion.**

SAFEHOME's 2012 budget of nearly \$3.2 million includes over \$1 million in government grant funding. Our current website does not have the capacity to comply with H.B. 2188 and report on the details of these expenditures, let alone information going back to 2005. In order to comply with H.B. 2188, SAFEHOME would have to expend significant funds that would otherwise be used for client services to greatly expand our website and pay for additional staffing to maintain the information.

**2. Secondly, H.B. 2188 would reproduce information that is already audited and available in other formats.**

As a recipient of government funding, SAFEHOME is subject to multiple layers of accountability measures for the public funds we receive. In particular, SAFEHOME

- undergoes an annual independent audit which we provide to funders;
- submits monthly and quarterly financial reports to our funders, including the Governor's Grants Office, Attorney General's Office, Kansas Department of Health

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 Janee' M. Hanzlick



and Environment, and the federal Office of Violence Against Women. These funders also conduct on-site audits to ensure that funds have been properly spent in accordance with grant requirements;

- files annual Form 990s with the IRS, which are available on numerous public websites such as Guidestar and Charity Navigator;
- provides back-up documentation to funders for all expenditures as required by reporting procedures;
- and submits all proposed budget changes to funders for prior approval.

SAFEHOME is proud of our outstanding and transparent financial procedures that recently earned the agency a 4-Star Rating from Charity Navigator (their highest designation). SAFEHOME was the only domestic violence agency in the Kansas City area to receive this designation. In addition, SAFEHOME received the "2012 Excellence in Nonprofit Leadership Award" for a nonprofit agency in the Kansas City metro area with over \$1 million budget by Support KC. The award notes that SAFEHOME is a "shining example of strong leadership and quality nonprofit practices".

**3. Finally, and most important, H.B. 2188 could be potentially dangerous for victims of domestic violence and agency staff.**

SAFEHOME's government funding includes client assistance funds to help victims move or flee from the abuse. If abusive partners can locate the victim through payee information on the agency's website, it can compromise the victim's safety and potentially, her life. In fact, the federal Violence Against Women Act prohibits domestic violence agencies from releasing identifying information about clients. In addition, staff that is paid with government funds could be located and potentially targeted by abusers.

With domestic homicides and lethality already a problem in Johnson County, now is not the time to make it easier for abusive partners to locate their victims or those people who are trying to help them.

I appreciate your consideration of these concerns and would welcome any questions you might have. Please contact me at 913-378-1514 or [jhanzlick@safehome-ks.org](mailto:jhanzlick@safehome-ks.org).

Sincerely,

  
Janee' M. Hanzlick, LMSW  
Executive Director