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House Committee on Judiciary

In Support of HB2062

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Chairman Barker 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 programs serving survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault across the state.

KCSDV supports passage of HB2062.

Currently in Kansas, dissemination of nude or sexually explicit images of another person without that person's consent, often referred to as non-consensual pornography, or revenge porn, can be a legal act. Most commonly this occurs when images or film are taken with consent in the context of a relationship and then later shared without consent after the relationship is over, frequently in an attempt to hurt or humiliate the other person. The dissemination of this material is a massive invasion of sexual privacy and can have devastating impacts for its victims. HB2062 aims to make this type of action unlawful.

Globally, there are over 3,000 sites dedicated to this material that attract millions of viewers. Victims are frequently threatened, sexually harassed or stalked as a result of the postings on these websites. According to Cyber Rights survey, 69% of victims had their full name shared with the material and 49% of victims have been harassed or stalked online or in person as a result of a former intimate partner posting to this site. Images are also threatened to be or sent to family, peers, and even employers, potentially resulting in a victim being shunned from the community or fired. In relationships where domestic violence is perpetrated, abusers will often use the threat of the dissemination of explicit photographs or film to prevent their partners from leaving them, filing for orders of protection, filing for divorce, to obtain custody of children, or to blackmail the victim into other activities.

This bill would provide protection for the thousands of victims whose lives have been affected by this type of blackmail and privacy invasion, known as revenge porn. It would also help to remove a powerful tool abusers use to humiliate and control their victims.

Submitted by,

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