

**Date of Testimony: February 13, 2018**

**Bill Number: HB-2145**

**Written Testimony: Joyce Grover, Kansas Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence**

**Position: Support**

**Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:**

The Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (KCSDV) is a statewide non-profit organization whose membership is the 27 sexual and domestic violence programs serving victims across Kansas. KCSDV provides information; training; and analysis and policy work on issues impacting victims of domestic and sexual violence, their families, and their communities.

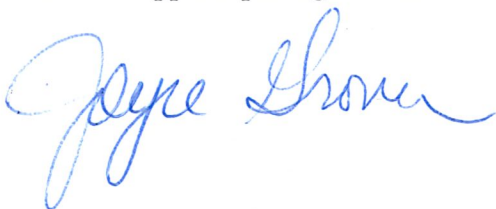
Nearly one-third of all women murdered in the United States are murdered by a current or former intimate partner. Many of these homicides are committed with a firearm. In Kansas, over the last 10 years, the percent of domestic violence-related homicides have ranged from more than 30% to 12% of the total number of homicides. Not all domestic violence ends in homicide but it is and can be a deadly situation for many victims.

Additionally, leaving a violent relationship can be the most dangerous time for a victim of domestic violence. When domestic violence-related murders occur, they often occur at the time the victim is leaving, getting a protection order, or making plans to do so. In Kansas under current law, there is no one who is monitoring the danger that firearms present to victims of domestic violence during this most dangerous time. There are warnings about federal firearms prohibitions on the Kansas protection order forms but those laws are not generally enforced in Kansas because (1) they are federal laws and do not appear to be a priority for federal law enforcement; and (2) there are no similar state laws enforceable in Kansas.

HB2145 will help rectify this situation.

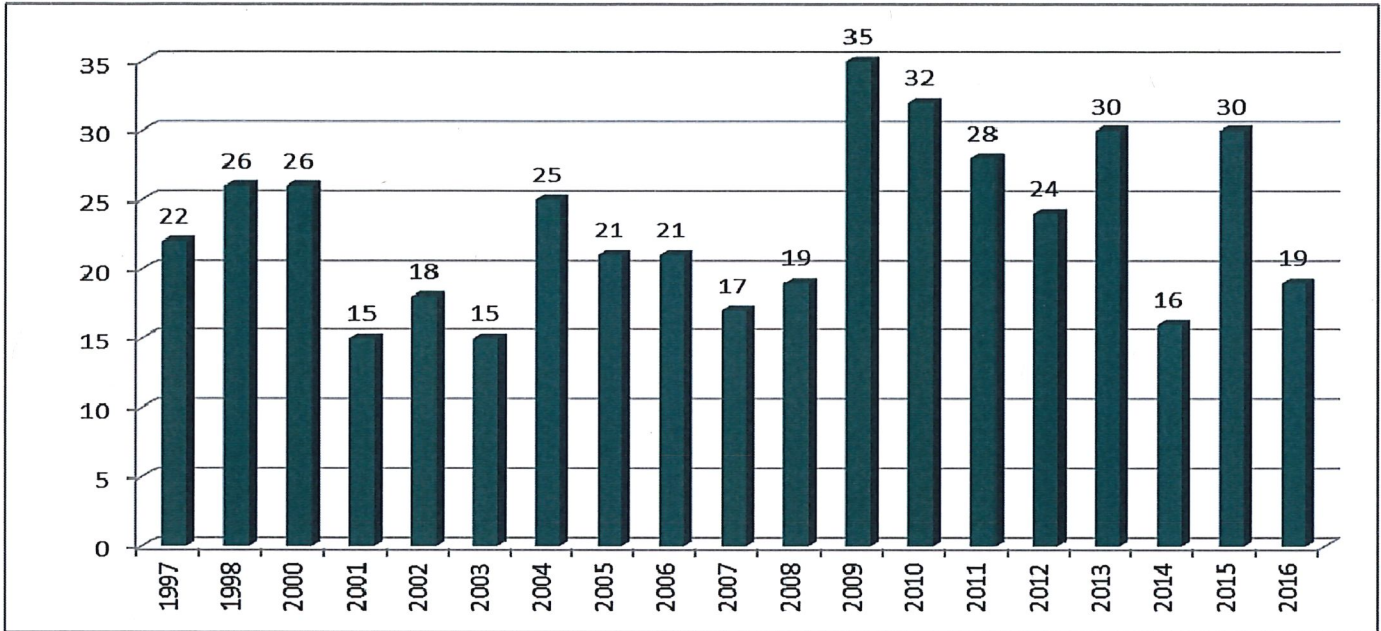
When advocates assist victims with their protection order, the victim often turns to the advocate with the final protection order in her hand and says, will he still have his guns? The answer is always, yes, there is no one who is going to take his guns. This law will at least allow criminal possession charges to be brought against the most dangerous of the domestic abusers.

KCSDV supports passage of HB2145.

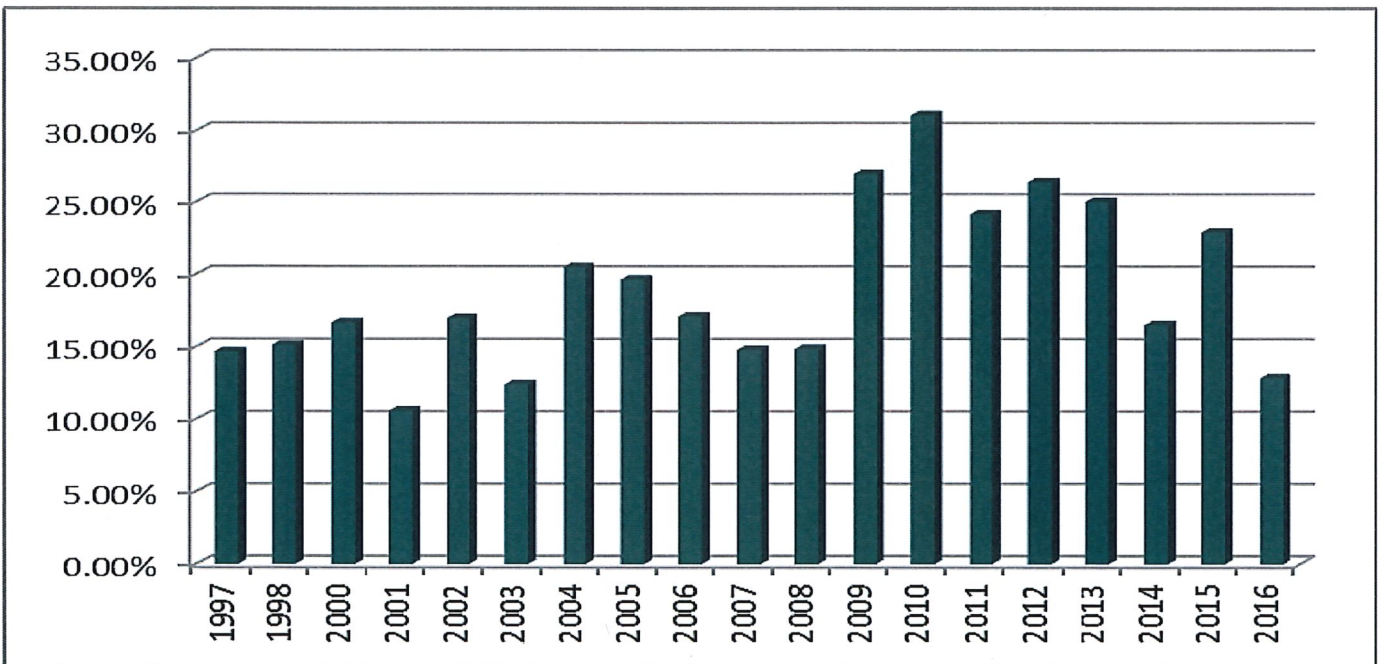


# Kansas Domestic Violence Homicide Trend Charts

## Domestic Violence Homicides



## Percent of Homicides DV Related



\*Total homicide data are not available for 1999.