



Before the Senate Judiciary Committee

Testimony in support of House Bill 2128

Presented on February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017

By: Steven M.S. Halley, LSCSW

Director: The Family Peace Initiative

Member: Governors' Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board.

Mr. Chairman and Honorable Members of the Committee;

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today on behalf of the Family Peace Initiative and the Governors Fatality Review Board (DVFRB) in support of House Bill 2128.

I have had the honor of participating on the DVFRB for well over 10 years. We examine extremely painful cases and have direct and detailed conversations regarding what could have been done differently to prevent each individual domestic violence tragedy.

The ability to operate in closed session would allow the Board to have discussions, and learn from professionals in the field, who would likely be reluctant to assist us if their conversation was open to the public. Being able to have these conversations is vital for the work that we do, and it is vital to protect hard working professionals from unnecessary public scrutiny.

There is no doubt in my mind that our work will be more thorough, complete and of benefit to the State of Kansas if Bill 2128 can be passed into law.

Thank you for your sincere consideration of this matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven M.S. Halley, LSCSW

Director

The Family Peace Initiative.

~3320 SW Harrison, Topeka, Kansas 66611~

Phone: 785-350-2858

Fax 1-844-272-4256