

HB 2234
Committee on Judiciary
WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY
March 16, 2017
SUPPORT

Chairman Wilborn and Members of the Committee:

The Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence's work includes training, public policy analysis, public awareness and prevention. Generally, KCSDV works with a network of 27 programs across the state to improve the responses for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. Programs provide services 24/7-365 days a year to thousands of Kansans, thousands more rely on law enforcement, health care providers, and others for immediate response and support.

In 2015, there were over 1,100 rapes reported to Kansas law enforcement agencies. This number does not include other types of invasive sexual violence such as aggravated criminal sodomy. Sexual assault is one of this country's most under-reported crimes. When someone is sexually assaulted, the victim may need assistance not just with a criminal justice response but also with the physical and emotional trauma of the assault. If the victim is able to access health care, one of the questions she or he may ask is whether they might contract HIV or another sexual transmitted infection from the assault. Many times the answer is "I don't know." While prophylactic medication may help, the lack of information about what the victim has been exposed to results in a trauma all its own. HB 2234 will help with this. Any information the victim can receive about on-going health issues that she or he may be subjected to reduces the long-term impact of sexual violence.

These were the reasons that Congress asked states to consider providing this information to victims across the nation. KCSDV support HB 2234 and supports the positive impact this could have for many victims.

Submitted by,



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