

HB 2306  
Judiciary Committee  
February 11, 2020

### **WRITTEN TESTIMONY HB2306**

Chairman Patton, Vice-Chair Ralph, and Ranking Member Carmichael and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

The Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (KCSDV) submits this written testimony in support of HB2306. KCSDV is a statewide non-profit organization whose members are the 26 sexual and domestic violence programs serving victims across Kansas. KCSDV provides information; training; and analysis and policy work on issues impacting victims of sexual and domestic violence, their families, and their communities.

HB2306 modifies the statute of limitations to bring a cause of action for childhood sexual abuse. The decision to pursue a cause of action can be a difficult one for victims to make. The thought of having to present evidence and testimony about the abuse one suffered as a child can be overwhelming and intimidating. Under the current law, victims only have three years to determine if it is best for them to pursue a legal remedy for the abuse that they suffered. Childhood trauma affects individuals differently. While some victims might be able to process childhood sexual abuse in just three years, many victims take much longer to develop the courage necessary to face their abuser. The law should reflect the complex nature of the trauma suffered by these victims

Additionally, the current law protects the interest of those who engage in sexual abuse of a child. Statutes of limitation exist to provide predictability and protection under the law for defendants. In this specific instance, these limitations only serve to benefit those who prey on children. It is contrary to notions of fairness and justice to protect those who victimize children.

KCSDV believes that amending the current law to eliminate the statute of limitations for childhood victims of sexual abuse would provide victims with the opportunity to face their abusers on a timetable that works best for the victim, not the abuser.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Rust-Martin  
Director of Legal and Policy  
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