



Kansas County & District Attorneys Association

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To: Chairman Patton and Members of the House Judiciary Committee

From: Kim T Parker, Prosecutor Coordinator: Kansas County and District Attorney's Association

Date: February 11th, 2020

Re: Proponent Testimony House Bill 2306

Good Afternoon Chairman Patton and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in favor of the passage of HB2306. I am addressing you on behalf of the Kansas County and District Attorney's Association and the many Kansas prosecutors they represent. Kansas prosecutors continue to be interested in modifications to the law for conduct that threatens public safety. HB2306 is a proposal that recognizes what prosecutors know and understand about the dynamics of delayed reporting of child sexual abuse. Prosecutors are daily involved with the review and prosecution of child sexual assault reports and understand that child sexual assault victims often do not report until they are safe and secure from the abuser. Furthermore, this bill acknowledges the mountain of evidence based research collected about the delayed reporting of child sexual assault and abuse. Every nine minutes is sexually assaulted in the U.S., and 93 percent know the perpetrator. Child sexual assault is a hidden crime. Many perpetrators of sexual abuse are in a position of trust or responsible for the child's care, such as a family member, teacher, clergy member, or coach. Most child victims of sexual assault disclose, if they disclose at all, during adulthood, with a median age of 48, and the average age of 52.

We testify today in support of HB2306 as measure that has long been needed in our state. Therefore, we urge the adoption of this measure

Respectfully Submitted

Kim T Parker, Prosecutor Coordinator

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