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PAM CURTIS
32ND DISTRICT

Senate Judiciary Committee

Testimony on HB 2279

Pam Curtis, Kansas House of Representatives District 32

March 18, 2019

Chairman Wilborn and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2279. Representative Ponka-We Victors and I introduced this legislation to enhance the notification process at the time of arrest for victims of domestic violence.

When there is a domestic violence call and the offender is arrested, the victim is often unaware of the amount of time they have to get to safety. HB 2279 would require law enforcement to inform victims when they make an arrest of how quickly the offender could be released. And that a 72 hour no contact order could be in place as a bond condition and should the arrested person contact the victim they should notify law enforcement immediately. This will help provide victims with the critical information they need to take care of matters, get to a safe place before the offender is released and help prevent additional confrontations. The gap that we are attempting to address in HB 2279 is the victim knowing how much time they have between the time of arrest and release.

HB 2279 also requires that information be provided of any services that are available to track the custody status of the offender. This will enhance the connection with the VINE notification system. The VINE system is currently available in most counties in Kansas and allows notification upon release of custody at no cost to victims that sign up.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee for hearing HB 2279 and for allowing me to testify in support of this bill.