

January 21, 2020

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB215

Chair: Senator Rick Wilborn
Vice Chair: Eric Rucker
Ranking Member: Vic Miller

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My goal and purpose of introducing this legislation is to help decrease domestic violence, an issue that has concerned me for many years. I've introduced bills in the past to address this issue. However, domestic violence seems to be on the rise. Especially, in Wichita where I reside. Mr. Chairman, I'm sure that you and the other members of the committee are aware that offenders of this serious and sometimes deadly problem are usually only required to attend an anger management class and present a certificate to the courts, only to repeat this act again. Perhaps, some of you may remember our good friend, Jana Mackey, who lobbied against domestic violence only to be murdered by her boyfriend in 2008.

Colleagues, we have done a lot already to help domestic violence victims like funding shelters and providing other aid and services. This past legislative session, we passed a law to allow domestic violence victims to break their lease without penalty for their safety. Although, we must continue our efforts of reducing the number of domestic violence cases in our state and helping the most vulnerable. I believe Senate Bill 215 will help us to do just that.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of Senate Bill 215.

I urge your strong support for SB215.

Sincerely,

Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau