

January 21, 2020

Chairman Gene Suellentrop and Members of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee:

The Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence is a network of direct service providers assisting thousands of survivors and victims of domestic and sexual violence and their families across the state.

One of the critical issues for survivors in readjusting to a life without violence is stability...a stable job, stable housing, and stable health care.

The adverse effects of this violence can have long-term impact on the victim's health and well-being. The immediate injury due to the violence is just one piece of the picture. Additionally, victims of abuse and sexual violence may also suffer from chronic illnesses following them for years or even for the rest of their lives. Good, adequate health care is critical for shortening the length of recovery from this violence.

KCSDV supports the expansion of health insurance coverages for this as well as other very vulnerable populations of Kansans. Because victims often live with years of residual health issues, adequate health care and health insurance coverage will provide another piece of stability in their lives going forward.

Please keep these Kansans in mind as you deliberate on this very important policy issue.

Submitted by,

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Executive Director