

HB 2538
House Judiciary Committee
Written Testimony Only
February 3, 2022
Proponent

Chairman Patton and Members of the Committee:

The Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (KCSDV) is a statewide non-profit organization whose membership is the 25 sexual and domestic violence programs serving victims across Kansas. KCSDV provides information, training, and analysis on issues impacting victims of domestic and sexual violence, their families, and their communities.

KCSDV supports the passage of HB 2538. This bill will allow victims the opportunity to testify at preliminary hearings without having to be in the same room as the person who attacked them.

It can be very difficult for a victim of sexual or domestic violence to make the decision to report that violence to law enforcement. In addition to the concerns about not being believed or the social stigma that still exists around many violent crimes, victims are often afraid to have to face their attacker or abuser in court. Having to publicly talk about some of their most vulnerable experiences can be retraumatizing for many victims. The idea of having to face the person who hurt them while they experience this additional trauma can be enough to deter a victim from seeking help in the first place.

For these reasons, we strongly support the passage of HB 2538.

Sincerely submitted on behalf of KCSDV,

Lindsie Ford, JD
Public Policy Attorney
KCSDV
634 SW Harrison Street
Topeka, Kansas 66603