

HB 2487- Proponent Testimony
HB 2484- Neutral Testimony
House Committee on Taxation
January 25, 2022

Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee:

The Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (KCSDV) is a statewide non-profit organization whose membership is the twenty-five 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. Our members, the local advocacy programs, are committed to providing quality services to victims of sexual assault and domestic violence, empowering victims to live independently without the ongoing fear of violence, and helping victims secure the resources necessary for a safe and healthy future.

KCSDV supports the passage of either HB 2487 or HB 2484 with a preference for HB 2487. HB 2487 has an earlier effective date than HB 2484 and for survivors those additional months could be life changing. One of the most critical issues for survivors in readjusting to a life without violence is stability...a stable job, stable housing, and stable health care. One of the biggest hindrances to establishing this stability is often a lack of access to economic resources.

We know that the most dangerous time for victims is when they choose to leave the relationship. Violence and abuse escalate significantly during this time. This time is also the most fraught financially for victims. Financial abuse is one of the most insidious types of abuse for victims, in that is one of the biggest hurdles for victims attempting to leave their abuser. When victims leave abusive relationships and seek independence, they often require intensive safety planning with a trained advocate. As such, advocates at our member programs see every day the devastation that poverty can inflict on a survivor trying to establish themselves in a safe environment.

Eliminating the sales tax for a basic necessity would go a long way to supporting these victims as they try to rebuild their lives. In a situation where every dollar saved could mean the difference between a survivor providing a safe home to their children or having to return to a potentially lethal environment, we simply cannot afford to keep taxing our citizens for the fundamental things they need to survive.

Sincerely submitted on behalf of KCSDV,

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