

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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DR. KIRK HASKINS
53RD DISTRICT

Proponent Testimony for HB 2300
House Judiciary Committee
Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Chair Humphries, Vice Chair Lewis, Ranking Member Highberger, and esteemed members of the committee,

On behalf of my House District 53 constituents, I appreciate the opportunity to advocate for House Bill 2300, an act requiring duly ordained ministers of religion to report cases of child abuse and neglect.

As an educator, I have witnessed firsthand the devastating impact of child neglect and abuse. It is our moral and societal duty to protect our most vulnerable Kansans. Clergy, often seen as pillars of trust, are uniquely positioned to identify and report suspected cases of child abuse and neglect.

Studies have found that mandatory reporting laws lead to improved outcomes for victims and highlight the importance of early intervention in cases of child abuse and neglect. By requiring clergy members to report suspected abuse or neglect, HB 2300 will contribute to protecting the quality of life for all Kansas children.

In conclusion, I urge you to support HB 2300. By doing so, we can send a clear message that protecting children is a top priority in our state and ensure that no child suffers in silence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kirk Haskins", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kirk Haskins, EdD

Eckenrode, J., Smith, E. G., McCarthy, M. E., & Dineen, M. (2014). Income inequality and child maltreatment in the United States. *Pediatrics*, 133(3), 454-461.

Mathews, B., Pacella, R., Dunne, M. P., Simunovic, M., & Marston, C. (2020). Improving measurement of child abuse and neglect: A systematic review and analysis of national prevalence studies. *PLOS ONE*, 15(1), e0227884.
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0227884>