

**House Appropriations Committee
In Opposition to HB2338
Submitted by Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence
February 27, 2013**

**Protection From Abuse Fund (K.S.A. 74-7325)
for Kansas Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services**

Chairman Rhoades and Members of the Committee:

The Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (KCSDV) is a statewide non-profit organization of the 29 sexual and domestic violence programs serving survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence across the state.

KCSDV is strongly opposed to HB2338. In order for the Committee to better understand the reasoning and context for KCSDV's opposition, we have provided the following information:

Sources for the PFA Fund

The PFA Fund is created by the following three sources:

- First, the fund receives 38.98% of the fees collected for marriage licenses (K.S.A. 23-2510). The marriage license fee is \$59 per license.
- Second, the fund receives 2.31% of the docket fees collect through district courts (K.S.A. 20-367).
- And, finally, the fund receives \$.50 of municipal court fees collected. In each case filed in municipal court other than a nonmoving traffic violation, where there is a finding of guilt or a plea of guilty, a plea of no contest, forfeiture of bond or a diversion, a sum in an amount of \$20 shall be assessed and such assessment shall be credited to several funds, including \$.50 to the PFA fund. (K.S.A. 12-4117)

Purpose of the PFA Fund

... "All moneys credited to the fund...shall be used only for ongoing operating expenses of...[domestic violence and sexual assault] programs." (K.S.A. 74-7325).

The PFA Fund has provided partial funding for domestic violence and sexual assault core operating costs since it was created in 1984. Below is a breakdown of awards to programs out of the PFA fund over the past several years:

FY2009	\$1,330,000
FY2010	\$1,310,000

FY2011	\$1,414,612
FY2012	\$1,221,572
FY2013	\$ 951,000

What Happens if the PFA Fund is Gutted?

Most state, federal and local funding that flows to programs is directed toward providing the day to day direct services: crisis hotline services, personal support and advocacy, court and law enforcement accompaniment, support groups, transportation and all of the other services that keep victims and their children safe. This funding is key to safety and to returning victims and their families back to normalcy.

However, the PFA Fund provides the foundation for these direct services. Since its inception in 1984, the PFA Fund has been an instrumental source of funding for the core operating costs of these programs, allowing all of the direct services to rest on the firm foundation of a good administrative structure.

Programs provide many, many direct services to victims but they also must pay for audits, accounting services, liability insurance, and executive and administrative services. These must be there consistently in order for the direct services to survive. Without the PFA fund, these core operating costs will not be funded and this puts Kansas programs at risk. I don't know how many of them will survive if this PFA Fund is gutted by this bill.

KCSDV strongly urges this Committee to not pass HB2338 and to sustain the current court and docket fee structure in Kansas. Without the PFA Fund, sexual and domestic violence programs across Kansas will face drastic funding cuts and face the possibility of closing their doors.

Submitted by,

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