



Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center
103 E. 9th
Scott City, KS 67871
620-872-3706



February 2, 2017

Members of the Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee,

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to speak briefly in support of Erin's Law in the state of Kansas. You have heard the statistics and are aware that millions of children are sexually abused each year in the United States. You are aware that Erin's Law could reduce child abuse in Kansas by requiring curriculum in all Kansas schools that addresses inappropriate touching. You understand that millions of dollars in future therapy costs and substance abuse treatment fees could be reduced by requiring the subject matter of Erin's Law be taught in our schools. However, are you fully aware of why child abuse continues to occur year after year?

You likely recognize that child sexual abuse is not a comfortable topic to discuss. You must, however, also realize that perpetrators take advantage of a system that hesitates to address this crime properly. Sex abuse cases will always be difficult to prosecute. Many law enforcement officials simply choose to avoid them altogether. Furthermore, children are taught to respect and follow the orders of adults in their lives, including close family members whom they often depend on for survival. Individuals who choose to inflict trauma upon the youth of our state even infiltrate the communities they reside in to gain the trust and respect of adults who can then speak highly of their character. This creates a perfect scenario for perpetrators to fulfill their urges with little fear of consequences.

We have determined that perpetrators prey on the vulnerability of our society. These criminals develop the trust of children and take advantage of their authoritative roles. The Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center is committed to aiding the abused, but not enough is done to prevent the abuse.

The time is now for us to take action, and remove child vulnerability from the equation. Erin's Law will address tactics utilized by the perpetrators in our communities. Children will be taught to recognize and avoid them. We must stand together to refuse to allow these predators an on-going platform to commit these horrendous acts. Vote to pass Erin's Law and acknowledge the shy, withdrawn child whose fear overwhelms them from taking action against the violations occurring in his or her life. Vote to pass Erin's Law and acknowledge the next generation of youth whose vulnerability will lead to years of trauma and despair.

Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely,

Taylor Freburg
Victim Advocate