

Chairman Wilborn and committee members,

Thank you for allowing me to speak today on behalf of Senate Bill 101. My name is Kristen Czugala, and I am the Program Supervisor of the Victim Services Unit with the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department. I have served the Unit for nine years both as a Victim Advocate and in my current capacity as the Supervisor.

The KCKPD Victim Services Unit is the longest running law enforcement-based advocacy unit in the state of Kansas, having been founded in 1999. As Advocates in a police department, we regularly respond to crime scenes, including homicides and rapes to provide immediate support to the victims and their family members. It is our job to support them and to ensure that their rights are being upheld throughout the investigation process.

I have always been involved with helping victims obtain protection orders, however, my involvement significantly changed last year when we were granted a new position through VOCA grant funding for a Bilingual PFA/PFS Advocate. Our new Advocate is based in the courthouse and assists victims with completing PFA and PFS Paperwork and accompanies them to court proceedings. Since the creation of this position, I have become entrenched in the nuances of Protection from Abuse and Protection from Stalking orders. I fully support the bill we are discussing today, which would allow for sexual assault victims to obtain a PFS against the person who attacked them.

I want to provide you with an example of a case that I worked that demonstrates the necessity of this bill. Of course, her name has been changed to protect her identity.

Jessica is employed at a local hotel as a housekeeper. John is a coworker of hers, who is temporarily employed at the hotel as a bed maker. John asked Jessica to open several rooms for him so he could strip the bedding because his card was not working. After unlocking a room, John followed Jessica inside and then blocked the door. Jessica tried to leave the room, but John forced her onto the bed and proceeded to rape her.

Since Jessica and John have not been in a dating relationship, lived together, or have a child in common, Jessica cannot obtain a protection from abuse order against him. In order to qualify for a protection from stalking order, Jessica would have to be threatened or abused again in order to have the two incidents required. Without a protection order in place, Jessica's employer is not obligated to change their work schedules so Jessica does not have to see the man who raped her at work while the investigation is ongoing. Jessica must choose to either quit her job and find another way to support her family, or continue to work with the man who raped her.

No contact orders as a condition of bond rarely help in sexual assault cases, as investigations are lengthy and it could be several months (or more) before charges are filed. Additionally, it is the Prosecutor's discretion regarding filing charges, and in some cases that never happens.

Jessica's story is not uncommon. We most often hear about the stranger rapists who break into homes, abduct their victims, or assault them on the streets on the news. The truth is, most victims know the person who sexually assaults them whether that be a neighbor, a friend, an intimate partner, or a coworker. I could provide you with dozens of examples throughout my career of victims of sexual assault who could have benefitted from this bill to feel safe and allow for criminal charges the **first** time

the perpetrator attempts to contact them after an assault. While preparing this testimony, three examples came to mind just from the last four months.

As of 2015, there are 28 states plus the District of Columbia who allow for sexual assault victims to obtain protection orders against the person who raped them. I urge you to support Senate Bill 101 and in turn, support victims of sexual assault who need additional protection from the perpetrators of these horrible crimes.

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