

I am Rev. David Meier, currently serving St. Paul Lutheran Church, Junction City and a member of the Governors Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board since April 2015. I speak in favor of HB No. 2128, amending K.S.A. 2016 Supp. 75-4319.

This amendment will significantly enhance the ability of the DVFRB to do its work. This bill is to allow closed meetings for the DVFRB which will allow us to use victims' names, which is more respectful to victims and their families, allows open discussion, and prevents people from having access to the private information discussed during case meetings. Without the ability to go into executive session for the purpose of case reviews, we have to have our analyst go through all the materials changing names, cities and other information which would disclose information on the victim, perpetrator and other individuals. This clearly limits the ability of the analyst and the review board to cover more cases. We would use the executive session only for analysis, not for recommendations.

I am very much in support of this amendment. I want to thank the Committee on Judiciary for considering this amendment and for having this hearing.