

Janee' Hanzlick, LMSW
8208 W. 97th Street
Overland Park KS 66212
janee.hanzlick@gmail.com

HB2279
House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice
February 21, 2019
SUPPORT

Chairman Jennings and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to you today as the former CEO of Safehome, Johnson County's domestic violence agency, where I worked for 20 years until 2018. Now, as a Johnson County Commissioner, I continue to work for public policies that protect the citizens of our county and our state. My testimony today is submitted as a private citizen and not as a Johnson County Commissioner.

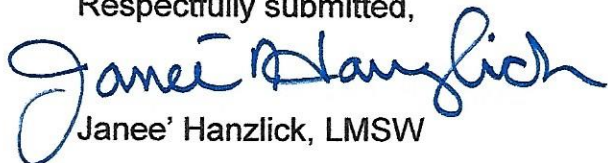
As the largest domestic violence agency in Kansas, Safehome provides shelter and support to over 9,000 victims of domestic abuse, both adults and children, each year. Services include a 60-bed shelter, professional clinical counseling, court and legal support, and financial and housing advocacy.

I strongly support the passage of HB2279, which seeks to increase the safety of victims by requiring timely notification of when their abuser could bond out of jail. By providing a victim with information on how soon the perpetrator might be released, victims can make critical decisions to protect their safety and that of their children.

As a partner in implementing the Johnson County Lethality Assessment Program (LAP), I have personally witnessed the life-saving impact of early information and assistance to victims of abuse. The Johnson County Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) is a collaborative effort between the District Attorney's Office, law enforcement, and Safehome, that provides immediate, on-site access to Safehome's shelter, hotline and resources at the scene of a domestic violence call. Since the LAP began, domestic homicides in Johnson County have dropped from 7 in 2011, to 2 in 2018.

Victims need information in order to make safer decisions for themselves and their children. This bill will provide essential information necessary for domestic violence victims to make life-saving decisions. I strongly encourage the passage of HB2279.

Respectfully submitted,


Janee' Hanzlick, LMSW