

State of Kansas
House of Representatives

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Ponka-We Victors
Representative, 103rd District

February 21, 2019

**Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee
Representative Russell Jennings, Chairman**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 2279, requiring law enforcement officers to provide information about the timing of release from custody when an arrest is made following a domestic violence call. Domestic violence takes many forms, including: emotional, mental, sexual, and physical abuse. This is an issue that occurs not only in our state but across the nation. HB 2279 would help strengthen the notification process by letting the victim know the earliest time of release, based on the bond schedule of the jurisdiction. Also, it would clarify language about any available services within the jurisdiction to help monitor custody changes of the person being arrested. HB 2279 will help save victims from partner violence and can be a tool in helping them know the status of the person being arrested.

Although, I have not experienced domestic violence, it has affected my family members and friends. Many of my close family members have been murdered or have disappeared due to acts of domestic violence. This bill helps strengthen the notification process and could potentially increase the number of cases reported. I believe there is room for improvement with the current opt-in program available in some jurisdictions and this bill is a step forward in helping the process.

I would strongly urge the House Corrections and Juvenile Justice committee to please pass out HB 2279 so that domestic violence victims will be notified and will be able to seek safety in a more timely manner.

Thank you for your time on this important issue,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ponka-We".

Ponka-We Victors
District 103