

**HB2518**  
**House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice**  
**February 11, 2020**  
**SUPPORT**  
**Written Only**

Chairman Jennings and Members of the Committee:

The Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (KCSDV) is a statewide non-profit organization whose membership is the 26 sexual and domestic violence programs serving victims across Kansas. KCSDV provides information; training; and analysis and policy work on issues impacting victims of domestic and sexual violence, their families, and their communities.

KCSDV encourages the passage of HB2518. Over the past 30 years, the legal response to domestic violence has changed dramatically and the Kansas legislature has strengthened laws over decades in an effort to protect victims. These changes have remained necessary to close loopholes, increase penalties to deter future violence, and afford additional safety opportunities for victims. However, two things have remained constant: abusers continue to hurt those they proclaim to love, and abusers continue to be given multiple chances under the law.

Under current Kansas law, an abuser could be convicted of a crime in the context of domestic violence and not have the conviction count toward sentencing on a domestic battery conviction. KCSDV asserts that by allowing this to continue, we are missing opportunities to hold abusers accountable through accurate sentencing. At every turn, we must fully address the severity and danger of domestic violence cases. KCSDV supports the passage of HB2518 to better hold abusers accountable and promote justice for victims.

Respectfully submitted,

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