

STATE OF KANSAS

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TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

COMMERCE, LABOR & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
FEDERAL AND STATE—RANKING
CO-CHAIR: MENTAL HEALTH CAUCUS

March 21, 2019

Chairman Barker,

Fed and State Committee;

RE: HB2392, Adrian's Law

Chairman Barker, members of the committee,

The horrendous maltreatment of a little seven-year-old boy, Adrian Jones, that resulted in death ripped at the hearts of not only my community and the State of Kansas, but the entire country. The atrocities this helpless child suffered at the hands of his biological father and step-mother were witnessed by an adult family member residing in the home who was identified as Adrian's uncle.

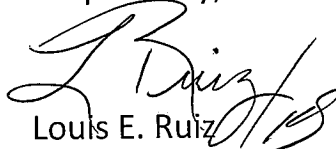
I viewed video along with members of Kansas City's KSHB Channel 41 news crew and witnessed the uncle walking around the house while little Adrian was hiding from him and trying to get a drink of water. (<https://www.kshb.com/longform/exclusive-surveillance-video-shows-relative-lived-in-home-during-tortured-kck-boys-abuse>)

I saw pictures of Adrian with cuts on his face and emaciated body, helpless and hopeless for his short life to change.

HB2392 creates an avenue for accountability mandating an adult member of the household, who is not subject to abuse, threat of abuse, violence or intimidation to report and possibly intervene during a perpetration of child abuse, physical, mental or sexual, hopefully not to the level of the atrocities Little Adrian suffered.

We have passed legislation to protect children from violent and abusive situations. It is time to add another level of protection to hopefully prevent another situation like this from ever happening again.

Respectfully,


Louis E. Ruiz
Representative #31