



WESTWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT

4700 RAINBOW BLVD • WESTWOOD KANSAS 66205

Gregory J. O'Halloran
Chief of Police

March 15, 2019

SENATE BILL 150

Proponent

Written Testimony

Greg O'Halloran – Westwood KS Police Department

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Chair and Members of Kansas House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing today with my support of SB150. As background for my comments I am the Chief of Police of Westwood, a Kansas police officer for over 36 years and a member of the Board of Directors for Safehome; a domestic violence survivor agency.

Having seen the impact of domestic violence on families for decades and observed firsthand the impact that new, well thought out initiatives can have, I am in support of this legislation.

There are so many elements that go into the thought process of a victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking and stalking. When a victim finds that moment to leave their abuser we have to look for every reasonable means to support them. It is well documented that financial concerns, and with that housing, are one of the more controlling elements an abuser uses to intimidate victims. This bill helps remove some of those concerns for the victims.

Ensuring unobstructed access to housing options, especially in the moments surrounding the time of separation from the abuser, is a critical component in these victims becoming survivors. I urge you to consider passing this bill.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Greg O'Halloran".

Greg O'Halloran
Chief of Police
Westwood, Kansas