

House Judiciary Committee

Bill No. SB-150

Testimony of: Sein Kina, President of Keep Girls Safe

Proponent ✓

Written Testimony Only ✓

Good Morning, Mr. Chairman, Vice Chairman, members of the Senate, distinguished guest, propionates of SB-150 opponents and survivors of Domestic Violence.

My name is Sein Kina and I'm a survivor of multiple violence perpetrated by a domestic partner, a professional who holds a master's degree in social work, a proud mother of three beautiful, talented and intelligent children, an immigrant from Kenya, a citizen of United States of America, the founder, the president of Keep Girl's Safe foundation, a fulltime state employee and Tax paying Kansan.

Keep Girls Safe Foundation is a 501/C nonprofit registered in Kansas. I started this nonprofit in 2014 as a student in Wichita State University who is passionate about eradicating multiple violence both here in Kansas and In Kenya my second home, after learning that domestic violence, partners rape, and much other violence are a crime in Kansas in general. One of my missions as the founder and president of the organization is to educate, empower immigrants like me who don't know that violence against women in Kansas is illegal, provide my clients with informed choice, their rights and give them choices. Most of the Immigrants I speak too comes from countries that consider women as property and a man can do whatever they please send get away with it.

I came to the United States in 2002 with my then Husband and 4 months old daughter. As a wife in my culture, I'm supposed to do all housework, take care of my children, cook for my husband and still maintain employment. My husband worked all day and when he came home he would take a shower and he better find hot Chai tea waiting for him in a Thermos flask on the living room table where he sat watching the news and WWE wrestling. As soon as he sits down, he would call me from where I was to pour tea in his cup or serve him food on his plate. It didn't matter what I was doing. When he called me, I had to stop to serve him first then go on with my business. I was not able to stop changing my baby's diaper, so I could go pour tea in his cup. I thought he could wait for a couple

minutes, but I better be there the moment he called. Just as a slave must serve her master's demands.

In January of 2003, this one night, my then husband came home and as our normal routine, I decided to pour his chai tea in his cup a couple of minutes before he comes to the living room because I knew he was done. I moved on to go attend my daughter. He comes to his sit and tried to take a sip of his tea and it didn't have enough sugar. He called me, and I was using the bathroom, so I couldn't come that quick. He waited for about 5 minutes and he got angry with me. Mind you he knows where the sugar is in the house, and he can go get it for himself but it's my job as his wife to make sure he gets what he wants, and he is happy. When I come back to the living room I had my daughter with me because she had just woken up. As soon as I put my daughter down he asked me why didn't you come when I called you? I told him I'm sorry I was using the restroom. What do you need? He picked up the cup of tea and threw it on me. My clothes were soaked with the tea dripping all over the carpet, I tried wiping it off my clothes, he then yelled at me in front of my 9 months old daughter. My baby started crying wanting me to pick her up, but I was told to leave her alone and get him tea. I know she was scared. I picked her up kissed her as tears roll over my face, with wet clothe from the warm chai that was pour on me. I poured a cup of tea for him as he verbally abused me. the abuse went on all night. I fed him, fed my daughter, cleaned dishes, showered and then cried myself to sleep.

The following day he came back from work and had a horrible attitude, I believe he had a bad day at work and he released all his anger on me. All that I said to him was how was work? He started complaining started going on about last night and things escalated from there, he abused me physically, verbally, and pushed my 9 months old daughter out of the way. This day I screamed, and my neighbor called the police who came and arrested him then took me to the Emergency Room. He was charged with Battery and Assault, he served 6 weeks in jail and was eventually released to work

release, with probation but was never ordered to any mental health testing's or complete an anger management program. my daughter was also abused that night. You see since it was his first offense and he hired a lawyer; the charges were reduced to misconduct. I didn't know this until this year. This same year we moved from Alaska to Wichita Kansas. The abuse continued but this time he had learned a lot in jail and didn't leave any marks on my face. He struggled me, called me names, demean me all the time and forcefully had sex with me when I said no. He spites at me and kept all my money. We had one joint account and both salaries went to this account and I was not allowed to use any money without his permission. But he didn't ask or tell me when he used our money and how he used it.

In 2006, I asked him to teach me how to drive a car, he told me I was so stupid and couldn't learn how to drive. One day he took me to a parking lot in Wichita Kansas and tried to teach me how to drive all this time he was yelling at me. Instead of me tapping on the break I tapped on the gas and the car hit a fence. It was not bad, my insurance paid for it, but he abused me that night. Showed up at work with a bruise and one of my coworkers asked me what happened I didn't hide it from her. She took me to my supervisor who called the police and I made the report. The police took pictures of my bruises and he was arrested that night.

I asked my co-worker to come and stay the night with and me my daughter at our apartment because I was scared she did. What we didn't know that my ex-husband was able to bail himself out with only \$250. He had left our patio door open. That same night he comes back to the house and my friend heard the widow door close, then she comes to my bedroom and told me he was in the house. He told my friend to be quiet because he just wanted a place to sleep. I called 911 and he was arrested once again. I understand he was told not to come back to the house for 72 hours. I had filed the PFA but that didn't keep him away from me and my daughter. The sad thing is I talked to people who knew about us at our church and they told me marriage is very tough and we should go not therapy.

He called his parents in Kenya, who spoke to my parents and we were both counseled and advised that there is no divorce allowed in our culture and I should persevere and not do things to make him mad, so he doesn't beat me up. I had already made my decision to divorce him after talking to a couple of co-workers. I filed for a divorce and an attorney I will not mention here, invited both of us and asked us if we loved each other, we said yes. We told him we were Christian, and my ex-husband told him our culture doesn't allow divorce. I was advised and provided with a paper that I signed that was filed in court and withdraw the case.

The abuse didn't stop we went through all the faces starting from the honeymoon time, and I ended up getting pregnant with my son. While I was pregnant he abused me again and I never left. This time I feared being a single woman with two children and a third on the way. He was arrested again and was never ordered to attend any classes or found guilty for child endangerment

In 2011, I started attending Wichita State University and I took a lot of classes that taught about anything about human rights, violence in the USA and protections for victims. One day was asked by one of our professors to write a paper about one season in our life. I found an outlet and wrote out all my pain, and it was a cry for help. She called me to her office and suggested I start mental health therapy. I started therapy that helped me so much identify who I'm and whom God created me to be. I learned more in my therapy session about God and what the bible says about marriage than in my church. I learned that the government that is supposed to stand up for me as a survivor didn't stand up for me all the way or stand up for my children.

In 2012, I divorced my ex-husband after another incident of abuse, I got the divorce, everything he was ordered to do he didn't do because I was given sole custody. He still got away from it. No one made him responsible. He was away from our lives for two years.

2015, he came back and wanted to see our children. we had a meeting with a pastor who encouraged me to forgive him and allow him to see our kids. I allowed him to come to visit our kids at

my house and started what I thought was a healthy relationship. I allowed him to move in with us and we remarried. The abuse started once again. This time is more emotionally, and verbally, but I was so busy working that I thought to ignore it would stop it. All the education I have didn't stop me from abuse, but it stopped me from telling people who could rescue me because I was afraid it will ruin my career and my kids' lives.

2016 and 2017 things were not too bad because I enrolled my kids in so many activities, so we could lessen the time we stay with their father at home. he never attended any activities for my children because he didn't think their activities were worth his time. I took refuge from this until he abused my son in 2017 August and I had to report the incident at the department of children's and families didn't find him guilty. Things didn't change, and I decided to start therapy again for both me and my children. Here we started arranging for a safe move.

On 2018, January 5th., My now ex-husband sexually abused me. I was ashamed and afraid to tell anyone. As a professional in the field, I didn't want anyone to know to know my struggles, I kept a strong face when to work but I was broken inside. I encouraged other survivors and worked so hard to help other survivors as a plan for my safe move.

On January 6th, I left my house with my kids for the weekend to visit a family member in Kansas City. I didn't say anything about the abuse that happened on the 5th. I didn't tell him we're going to Kansas City either, we just parked our bags and left, when he was in the shower. He thought we were going to one of my children's activities that he doesn't participate in. When I got to my family members house in KC, I showered for about 30minutes to try cleaning out all the pain I was going through, I cried, I prayed but the pain didn't go away. Unfortunately, I had to come back on Sunday because my children had school and I had to work on Monday.

On January 7th, at 4 pm, he called and asked me where I was with his kids. I told him Kansas City and we will be back before 7 pm because we're leaving. We got home around 6:30 pm and I started

doing laundry. Then he came by the laundry and started cursing me out, I asked him why he was so mad he slaps me, spat at me, slam me by the laundry wall, then my daughter came running from upstairs asking what was going on. She saw her father hit me and she said, to him, stop it, dad, my son herds him then he came running, crying saying, don't hurt my mom, dad stop. I told my daughter to go call the police. He told my daughter, I didn't start this it is your mother who did. My daughter walked out because he had seen what happened. He then said, "I don't want to hurt you, Next time I hit you, the police will not be here to rescue you I will Kill you" My son and I stepped out and called the police. My daughter had driven to go to find help. When she comes back, I stayed in the car she went back inside and brought my pass the police then arrived. My ex- had left through the back yard so he was not arrested that day. We left the house, with the police to the police station. We wrote the report and were provided with resourced for a shelter, but I opted to call a friend whom we stayed with that night.

January 8th, 2018, I filed a PFA order that was awarded. My children's school and therapist reported that incident with DCF and it was subsisted that he was emotionally, and psychologically abusive to the children. Two weeks later, he violated the PFA order and was arrested. He was found guilty by both the family law court with a suspended sentence. I requested the court to order a Psychological evaluation, then follow or recommendation, Batterer intervention program with anger management therapy before he could be allowed visits with my children, looking at the best interest of my children are in danger around him.

The reason I'm here today is because, when we left court in July of 2018, his attorney filed an appeal with the city court where he was found guilty of violating the PFA order and was ordered to complete a psychological evaluation, follow all recommendation from the psychologist, complete an Anger Management series and batter intervention program. He was given a suspended sentence and with reporting probation until he completes all the orders. My address was sealed by the court, I worked

with Victims advocate office who moved me and my children to a safe undisclosed place until today. I provided the court Clark with a post box office and a telephone number, after my Ex- husband attorney asked for my address.

His attorney appealed this ruling in the district court and I was never informed. The subpoena was sent to my old address, which was returned by the post office to the court. As a Survivor and witness, I was failed by the people that were supposed to protect my rights, my kids' rights and keep us safe. This case was dismissed by the judge in the district court without prejudice because the witness who never received the subpoena never showed up.

How was I supposed to know that the case was appealed if it was not communicated to me?

Isn't this what happening all the time when survivors change their address then it assumed they are afraid to show up? Now we have a perpetrator who is not going to take responsibility for his actions, because of a mistake that was done by a clerk. Isn't this type of small mistakes that leads to lives of survivors being lost? The law failed me and my children.

Therefore, I'm here today, speaking in support of SB-150 and add a few suggestions that should be considered to avoid what is currently happening to me and many survivors every day.

Suggestion Recommendation:

Psychological testing and follows all recommendation from the psychologist, completed an Anger Management series and batter intervention program. This should be included in all the PFA order. first offenders should be placed on probation instead of reducing the offense to a reckless or non-violent offense or suspending the sentence.

Individuals with the history of abuse should place all have all this order in their PFA orders, placed on so that monitoring can be done, and they should be required to show progress from therapy

Individuals with children should be charged with child endangerment and required to complete a parenting class, Psychological testing follows all recommendation from the psychologist, completed an Anger Management series and batter intervention, prior to supervised visitations with his or her children be allowed by the court. All children visitation should be therapy led. The judge should follow children therapy recommendations. The perpetrator should be responsible for paying any incurred expenses for supervised visits.

The court should make more than one attempt to located witnesses to avoid perpetrators attorneys having the cases dismissed because a survivor didn't make it to court.

Thank you for listening to my testimony, I hope when you vote today, you will think about all other survivors of domestic violence, remember I stood in front of you broken but had to gather courage on behalf of so many survivors who cannot gather the courage to speak in front of law makers.

