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House of Representatives

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Ponka-We Victors
Representative, 103rd District

March 18, 2019

Senate Judiciary Committee
Senator Rick Wilborn, Chairman

Mr. Chairman and members of the Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2279. Domestic violence can take many forms such as emotional, mental, sexual, and physical abuse. This bill would help strengthen the notification process by letting the victim know that in some cases the person arrested can be released from custody in a short amount of time. The bill also specifies that a bond condition may be imposed on the person arrested that prohibits contact with the victim for 72 hours and if they do make contact then the victim should notify law enforcement immediately. Therefore, I know that HB 2279 will help save victims from partner violence and can let them know that their abuser may be out of custody sooner than they think.

Although I have not experienced domestic violence myself, 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. Last year in Wichita, a young mother was killed because she thought she was safe and that her husband was still in jail. However, when she was returning back to her parent's house after collecting clothes for her six children, she was ran off the road and shot in the head by her husband. As mentioned before, this bill would provide information to victims at the most critical time so they are better able to make safe decisions.

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

Thank you for your time about this important issue,

Rep. Ponka-We Victors

Ponka-We Victors
District 103