

**HB 2251**  
**House Committee on Federal and State Affairs**  
**TESTIMONY**  
**March 26, 2021**  
**PROPONENT**

Chairman Barker and Members of the Committee:

The Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (KCSDV) is a statewide non-profit organization whose members are 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 sexual and domestic violence, their families, and their communities.

**KCSDV supports the passage of HB2251.** The passage of this bill would help to save lives. Intimate partner homicides remain an all too common problem in Kansas. In 2019, 25.4% of the 130 murders committed in the state were related to domestic violence.<sup>i</sup>

The presence of a firearm in a domestic violence situation increases the risk of intimate partner homicide by 500%.<sup>ii</sup> Over the ten-year period between 2008 and 2017, there was a reduction in intimate partner homicides of women across the country involving weapons—except homicides by firearms, which increased by 15 percent.<sup>iii</sup> These numbers are too significant to ignore.

This bill will allow for the removal of firearms from situations that have been proven to put victims of domestic violence at significant risk of being murdered. This law is targeted to make sure that only those who pose a real risk of committing intimate partner homicide are affected. This in turn means that it is targeted to eliminate one of the biggest risks to victims of domestic violence in Kansas.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsie Ford  
KCSDV Staff Attorney

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.kansas.gov/kbi/stats/docs/pdf/CrimeIndex2019.pdf>

<sup>ii</sup> J.C. Campbell, D.W. Webster, J. Koziol-McLain, et al., “Risk factors for femicide within physically abusive intimate relationships: results from a multi-site case control study,” 93 Amer. J. of Public Health 1089-1097 (2003).

<sup>iii</sup> [https://everytownresearch.org/reports/guns-intimate-partner-violence/#foot\\_note\\_anchor\\_5](https://everytownresearch.org/reports/guns-intimate-partner-violence/#foot_note_anchor_5)