

HB 2008
House Judiciary Committee
TESTIMONY
January 19, 2021
SUPPORT

Chairman Patton 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 HB2008. According to a 2018 report published by the Urban Indian Health Institute (UIHI) laying out the crisis of missing and murdered indigenous women and children titled “Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG): A Snapshot of 71 Cities in the United States” a light is shed on the **growing problem** of MMIWG and also on the tremendous lack of data collected on this ever-growing problem. Even with insufficient and inadequate data, and acknowledgement of the reluctance in reporting, we know that **506 cases** of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls were identified in these 71 cities.

Murder is the third leading cause of death for American Indian/Alaskan Native women. Through the UIHI report, we are provided identification and cause of death analysis for those 506 unique cases of missing and murdered American Indian and Alaskan Native women and girls across the 71 selected cities – 128 (25%) were missing persons cases; 280 (56%) were murder cases; and 98 (19%) had an unknown status.¹ Many of these cases were linked to cases of domestic violence and sexual assault.

In Kansas, we do not know enough about this epidemic of missing and murdered women and girls. We must join other states with tribal land and populations that are attempting to identify the full impact and scope of this problem. We urge Kansas to pass HB2008 allowing us to put practices in place that better identify the problem and develop policies and training protocols to impact this devastating trend.

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Rust-Martin
KCSDV Director of Legal and Policy

¹ *Id.*