

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEGAN LYNN
49TH DISTRICT

To the House Judiciary Committee,

HB2071 looks to amend K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 21-5427 by increasing penalties for stalking a minor. The existing law was passed in 2008 and was known as Jodi's Law. Jodi Sanderholm was 19yrs old when she was abducted, raped, and brutally murdered here in Kansas. The man responsible for her gruesome death had multiple restraining orders against him, however at the time there were no laws in place that would allow the police to arrest him for stalking. This law strengthened the legal definition of stalking while increasing punishment and allowed law enforcement agencies to better protect citizens.

Today we have a very courageous family who will tell you their story... one that no one should ever have to experience, let alone tolerate their accusers to be set free from committing heinous crimes against children. HB2071 strengthens current law by increasing criminal penalties for stalking a minor.

We also hear from Steve Howe, the District Attorney for Johnson County, who can give us a better understanding of the legal reasonings for this law and how it's imperative to close the loophole that the accuser used to get away with stalking minors for years.

Thank you for your time,

Rep. Megan Lynn