

HB 2474
House Judiciary Committee
WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY
January 18, 2022
PROPONENT

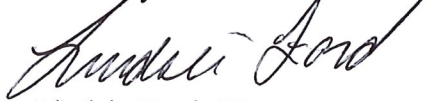
Chairman Patton and Members of the Committee:

The Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (KCSDV) is a statewide non-profit organization whose membership is the 25 sexual and domestic violence programs serving victims across Kansas. KCSDV provides information, training, and analysis on issues impacting victims of domestic and sexual violence, their families, and their communities. The local advocacy programs provide quality services to victims of sexual assault and domestic violence, empower victims to live without the ongoing fear of violence, and help victims secure the resources necessary for a safe and healthy future.

KCSDV supports the passage of HB 2474. This bill will provide judges with the discretion to change the surname of a spouse to something other than their maiden or former name as part of a divorce proceeding at or after the time the decree of the divorce becomes final.

For many domestic violence victims, the fear of further violence is very real even after leaving the relationship. For some, taking back a former name or a new name is one step in independence and moving on from the violence. Victims should not have to take this step through a court proceeding. Passing HB 2474 would create a pathway for victims to establish a safe and stable future free from abuse.

Sincerely submitted on behalf of KCSDV,



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