

My name is Roberta Jackson and I support Bill HB2740 one hundred percent. I became a domestic violence survivor on January 14th, 2023. My offender was someone that I was in a relationship with and I found out after my assault that he has a very, very long history of hurting women in at least 7 states. Every time he got caught, they essentially gave him probation with a delayed sentence as long as he did what he was supposed to. At the time of my assault he was wanted out of the state of Indiana for the same thing and yet they still offered him probation. After he was released from jail here in Kansas he went back to Kentucky and hurt another woman there and almost killed her too in September. I also work as a 911 operator and on average in my 6-7 hour shifts there are no less than a half dozen domestic calls at any given time being worked by officers. I took a call from a 14-year old girl whose mother's boyfriend was in their house and pointing a gun at her mother after he had beaten her up and there was a protection order in place. She had locked herself in her room and called 911. I got her calmed down and was working with officers to try to get her out of her window when 7 shots went off. The girl was still in her room and she thought that he had shot her mother. He hadn't. He shot into the wall. We ran him through NCIC while all of this was going on and he had been convicted of domestic violence not once, not twice but three times and this would be his 4th conviction. The system is broken. The fact that my offender or this man are essentially getting just slaps on the wrist and basically given a free pass to continue to hurt and potentially kill women is ludicrous.

I have since made it my mission to get this changed which is why I contacted Mr. Thompson. Probation DOES NOT work in most cases. They develop a "God Complex" because they believe that they can just keep hurting people because the judicial system just keeps letting them off. The system failed me. They failed his most recent victim. The broken system is the reason that so many women either don't report it or they end up beaten again or killed. Something has got to change.

I had proposed the idea of a National Domestic Violence Registry like there are for sex offenders, violent offenders and drug offenders. This would at least give potential victims a resource to go to before they got involved with someone and give them the option whether they wanted to pursue it or not. One in 3 women and one in 4 men have experienced some form of physical violence by an intimate partner in one form or another. This should not be happening at all. I know this bill cannot solve all of the issues around this subject but it is a good start. There is so much more that needs to be done to stop this from happening and becoming more common.

So, I, as a domestic violence survivor plead to you to consider this bill. Not only consider it but build on it so that it is taken as seriously as rape, abuse against children and murder. These victims need to know that there is hope for justice for them.