

To: House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice
From: Michelle McCormick, Executive Director KCSDV
Re: Proponent Testimony of HB 2370
Date: February 19, 2024

Chairperson Owens and Members of the Committee:

The Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (KCSDV) is a nonprofit organization located in Topeka with 25 member organizations providing direct services to victims of sexual and domestic violence statewide. These are the programs that provide critical services to survivors 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and include emergency shelter, hotline calls, counseling, and other supportive services.

We offer proponent testimony on HB 2370 today – a bill that would define consent in the Kansas Criminal Code for sexual offenses. KCSDV is, in general, in support of the proposal to add a definition of consent to Kansas statutes. When informed consent is freely and voluntarily given, and is mutually understood by all parties, then all people can be better protected.

While KCSDV supports the bill as a proponent, we would like to partner with stakeholders, this committee, or others in the Legislature in future opportunities to modernize the rest of K.S.A. 21-5501.

For the reasons stated above, KCSDV is a proponent of HB 2370.

Respectfully,



Michelle McCormick
Executive Director