

To: House Committee on Judiciary  
From: Michelle McCormick, Executive Director KCSDV  
Re: Proponent Oral Testimony for HB 2781  
Date: February 15, 2024

Chairperson Humphries 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 support, counseling, and other supportive services. We offer proponent testimony on HB 2781 today – a bill that would make amendments to Kansas Crime Victims Compensation statutes.

The main objective behind HB 2781 is to further support victims of crime. KCSDV and our 25 member programs advocate specifically for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual violence, and stalking. We believe HB 2781 offers a trauma-informed approach to better compensate victims and survivors, who through no fault of their own, have needs because they were harmed by another. The bill is tailored to provide meaningful impacts for victims by creating a greater opportunity for the Crime Victim Compensation Board to consider the totality of the circumstances that victims and survivors may face. We believe these changes allow the Board the discretion needed to balance stewardship of the resources in their charge with the opportunity to better support victims of crime.

KCSDV co-chairs the Kansas Sexual Assault Response Advisory Committee (K-SARAC), which is a multidisciplinary group of statewide experts formed to facilitate collaboration towards the goal of improved sexual assault response practices in Kansas. Members include representatives from law enforcement, prosecution, healthcare, child advocacy centers, and victim advocacy. Several of the proposed changes in this bill were recommended by K-SARAC for consideration to the Attorney General. We are grateful for the work of the AG's office and the Crime Victim Compensation board towards this effort.

For the reasons stated above, KCSDV is a proponent of 2024 HB 2781.

Sincerely,



Michelle McCormick, LMSW  
Executive Director  
KCSDV