WICHITA FAMILY CRISIS CENTER

Written Testimony in Support of House Bill 2754
House Judiciary Committee
February 12, 2026

I am the Executive Director of the Wichita Family Crisis Center (WFCC), a safe, confidential domestic violence shelter and crisis center serving Sedgwick, Cowley, and Sumner counties.

Coerced debt is a devastating and often invisible form of abuse. It traps survivors in violent relationships, tying their safety to financial ruin. For many victims of domestic violence, debt is not simply a financial burden, it is a weapon used against them.

I have worked with survivors of domestic violence on and off for more than twenty-five years. One case stays with me. A prominent businessman in Wichita was severely abusing his wife and their three-year-old son. While he maintained his public image and professional success, behind closed doors he was committing acts of violence and exercising total financial control. He deliberately placed all of his corporate debt in his wife's name. She did not benefit from the businesses, nor did she control them, but legally, the debt was hers.

As a result, her credit was destroyed. She had no access to loans, no ability to secure housing on her own, and no financial safety net. The very debt he created became a chain that bound her to him.

He provided her only a small amount of cash each week for groceries. She began coming to our shelter, quietly collecting food and hygiene products. She was trying, week by week, to save a few dollars at a time, enough to eventually escape with her young son.

Imagine the courage that takes. Imagine having to plan your freedom in increments of spare change, all while living with violence and fear.

The coerced debt in her name made it nearly impossible to leave safely. Legislation like HB 2754 would have made a profound difference for this family. I urge you to support HB 2754.

Thank you for your service to our state and for your commitment to protecting its most vulnerable residents.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Meyers

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Executive Director

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