

Written Testimony Only in Support of
**Senate Bill 265: Increasing the criminal penalties
for repeat violations of a protective order.**

Submitted by:

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Dear Chair Humphries, Vice Chair Lewis, Ranking Member Highberger, and Committee:

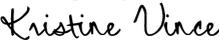
My name is Kristine Vince, and I live in Overland Park, KS. Thank you for the opportunity to supply written testimony in support of Senate Bill 265 that would increase the criminal penalties for repeat violations of a protective order.

Over the past four years, both my 17-year-old daughter and I have experienced significant trauma because my ex-husband dropped out of mental health treatment, became unstable, & became a threat to both me and my child. In April 2020, I applied for and was granted Temporary Protection from Abuse (PFA). In January 2021, I was granted a Final PFA for a one-year time period, which was the standard time frame at the time. Since I was considered a high-risk case after completing a lethality assessment with the police, I worked with our local domestic violence shelter (SafeHome) to create a safety plan.

My ex-husband violated the restraining order a total of 3 times that could be proven, and he never spent any time in jail for the repeated violations. Instead, he was placed on probation for a year, which he violated on numerous occasions. My daughter and I lived in fear as he remained an active risk to us. After a family court trial in April of 2022, I was granted an extended PFA (restraining order) for 15 years that included both me and my daughter. My ex was also denied any parenting time with my daughter, which is rare in family court cases. He was ordered to complete both an anger management and DV assessment complying with all treatment recommendations, which to my knowledge proof of completion of either has never been provided to the court. We are currently using the Safe at Home program to conceal our address from him in the hopes of increasing our long-term safety.

One of my biggest frustrations throughout this ordeal was the lack of increased penalties in criminal court for each of my ex's violations of the PFA. Domestic violence is a life and death situation for families like mine. Luckily my child & I are still alive, but I believe that we would have been safer if my ex-husband had faced stiffer penalties for his repeated violations. I urge you to support Senate Bill 265 to protect KS survivors of domestic violence from repeated trauma & possible death due to the actions of known offenders.

Thank you for your consideration,

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Kristine Vince