

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kellie Warren at 10:30 am on Wednesday, January 29, 2025, in room 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present

### Committee staff present:

Barbara Moore, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant  
Chris Waggoner, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Natalie Nelson, Legislative Research Department  
Natalie Scott, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Walter Nelson, Legislative Research Department

### Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Michael Kagey, Shawnee County District Attorney  
Ed Klumpp, Legislation Liaison, KS Sheriffs Assoc; Ks Assoc of Chiefs of Police; Ks Peace Officers Assoc.  
Angela Boles, Founder and Exec. Director, Project 2 Restore  
Sharon Sullivan, International Public Policy Institute  
Faron Barr, District 5710 Rotary Foundation Chair 2022 - 2025  
Jason Alvis, Chief Executive Officer, ReHope  
Kristin Hammer, Community Engagement Coordinator, YWCA Northeast Kansas  
Emma Markiewicz, Human Trafficking Intelligence Analyst, Shawnee County District Attorney Office  
Robin Bonsall, Twilight Lions Founding Member, Topeka Lions Club  
Kim Borchers, Project 2 Restore Board of Directors

### Others in attendance:

No list available

### **Request for bill introductions**

Chairwoman Warren asked if there were any requests bill introductions.

Senator Bowers, requested the two following bills:

25rs0719 - related to retirement age for magistrate judges. Without objection, the request for the bill was accepted for introduction.

25rs0610 - related to BIDS social workers. Without objection, the request for the bill was accepted for introduction.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Judiciary at 10:30 am on Wednesday, January 29, 2025, in room 346-S of the Capitol.

---

Jessica Lucas, on behalf of the Kansas Coalition against Sexual and Domestic Violence, requested the following bill:

25rs0827 - related to child-related protection from abuse act. Without objection, the request for the bill was accepted for introduction.

**Hearing on: SB71 — Increasing the criminal penalties for buying sexual relations, removing provisions regarding city ordinances prohibiting buying sexual relations, requiring certain offenders to complete an educational or treatment program regarding commercial sexual exploitation and requiring the attorney general to approve such programs in consultation with the office of judicial administration.**

Chairwoman Warren opened the hearing on **SB71**

Natalie Scott, Revisor of Statutes office, provided an overview of the bill and stood for questions. ([Attachment 1](#))

Michael Kagey, Shawnee County District Attorney, stated in his proponent testimony the purpose of bill. He testified that we need a firm stance in Kansas. By supporting **SB71**, you have the power to make a real and lasting difference. Strengthening penalties for sex buyers and implementing standardized education programs will not only deter future crimes but also confronts buyers with the truth about the suffering they perpetuate. ([Attachment 2](#))

Ed Klumpp, Legislation Liaison, KS Sheriffs Assoc; Ks Assoc of Chiefs of Police; Ks Peace Officers Assoc., testified in support of the bill. He wants to draw attention to 3rd paragraph of his testimony making the crime a felon on the first offense and will take these cases out of the Municipal Courts. ([Attachment 3](#))

Angela Boles, Founder and Exec. Director, Project 2 Restore, provided testimony in support of the bill. She stated making the buying of sex a crime is absolutely vital in the fight against sex trafficking. She asked for supporting this bill in its entirety. The education/diversion component is vital to changing the hearts and minds of those who believe that is a victimless crime to buy sex. ([Attachment 4](#))

Sharon Sullivan, International Public Policy Institute, shared testimony in support of the bill. She provided statistics and said if we make the penalties high enough it will deter sex buying. An important part of this new legislation is buyer education. It takes time to help buyers understand the harm in buying sex. ([Attachment 5](#))

Faron Barr, District 5710 Rotary Foundation Chair 2022 - 2025, provided testimony in support of **SB71**. He stated in 2021, Texas enacted a bill which made first time sex buying a felony. Last year,

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Judiciary at 10:30 am on Wednesday, January 29, 2025, in room 346-S of the Capitol.

---

Delaware, Oklahoma and North Carolina enacted similar laws. We would like to see the reduction of demand for sex buying in Kansas. ([Attachment 6](#))

Jason Alvis, Chief Executive Officer, ReHope, provided testimony to support **SB71**. At ReHope they serve both those being trafficked and the buyers caught up in it by offering education courses. Victims seeing and knowing exploiters are being dealt significant consequences for their actions elevate their mental state and assists in their recovery. ([Attachment 7](#))

Kristin Hammer, Community Engagement Coordinator, YWCA Northeast Kansas, supports the bill. She states sex trafficking is a harsh reality in our state, and we witness its impact in the communities we serve. It is crucial to hold buyers accountable and make our communities safe. ([Attachment 8](#))

Emma Markiewicz, Human Trafficking Intelligence Analyst, Shawnee County District Attorney Office states she specializes in open source and social media investigations and provides comprehensive intelligence products to law enforcement to advance proactive human trafficking operations. She provided an overview of some of the advertisements she has found posted to online escort sites. She states we cannot accept that this is the society that we live in and will raise our children in. She asks that you please join her, her colleagues and the many survivors across the state by supporting this bill. ([Attachment 9](#))

Robin Bonsall, Twilight Lions Founding Member, Topeka Lions Club, testified in support of the bill. She asked the committee to establish 'certain offenders' to mean all sex buyers to be required to register for and complete Attorney General approved education / treatment programs to be eligible for diversion in 7 to 10 years. ([Attachment 10](#))

Kim Borchers, Project 2 Restore Board of Directors, stood as a proponent for **SB71**. Project 2 Restore is a home for women wanting to leave sex trafficking. Eradicating sex trafficking may seem like an insurmountable challenge but this bill represents a first step in making the impossible a reality. SB71 sends a powerful and clear message to traffickers and those who purchase sex that Kansas is serious about eradicating sex trafficking. ([Attachment 11](#))

Conferees stood for questions and discussion.

Proponents, Written only testimony was submitted by the following the following:

- Brad Barrett, State Representative House District 76 ([Attachment 12](#))
- Matthew Bingesser, Administrative Counsel, Office of the Attorney General ([Attachment 13](#))
- Neil Getzlow, Director, Men's Education, ReHope ([Attachment 14](#))
- Chuck Weber, Executive Director, Kansas Catholic Conference ([Attachment 15](#))
- Andrea Carter, Private Citizen ([Attachment 16](#))

---

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Judiciary at 10:30 am on Wednesday, January 29, 2025, in room 346-S of the Capitol.

---

- Kristy Childs, Founder, Veronica's Voice, now with ReHope ([Attachment 17](#))
- Dorthy Stucky Halley, LMSW, Halley Counseling Services P.A. ([Attachment 18](#))

No further testimony on **SB71** was submitted.

Chairwoman Warren closed the hearing on **SB71**.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.