

To: Senate Judiciary Committee
From: Michelle McCormick, Executive Director, KCSDV
Re: Proponent Testimony for SB 288
Date: March 11, 2025

Chairperson Warren and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Kansas Coalition against Sexual and Domestic Violence (KCSDV) and in conjunction with our colleagues from the Children's Advocacy Centers of Kansas and others, I am submitting testimony in support of SB 288.

KCSDV is a nonprofit organization located in Topeka, with 25 member organizations who provide direct services to victims of sexual and domestic violence in all 105 Kansas counties. I am here today representing our Coalition and these programs, who provide critical services to victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence in Kansas. Services include emergency shelter, emergency helplines, counseling and support groups, accompanying victims to medical, court, and law enforcement appointments, and other supportive services. These services are provided to victims and survivors 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Kansas domestic and sexual violence programs serve on average more than 70,000 Kansans each year.

KCSDV supports SB 288, a bill that would prohibit adult sex offenders who perpetrate against children from entering school property or attending school activities. It is our position that this law change would offer stronger protections for child sexual abuse victims attending school and school events, as well as prevent other children from becoming victimized because a convicted offender could gain access to them in a school environment.

Experts in the child abuse field report to us that this bill:

- Creates safer schools by ensuring victims do not encounter their abusers in an educational setting,
- Reduces the risk of re-offense by preventing known offenders from accessing vulnerable children,
- Gives schools and law enforcement clear legal authority to enforce restrictions and remove threats quickly, and
- Aligns with national best practices for crime prevention and trauma-informed child protection.

For additional information on the research informing this perspective, please consider the following references:

References

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2023). **Adverse Childhood Experiences & Long-Term Outcomes**. Retrieved from: www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces
2. Finkelhor, D. (2020). **Child Sexual Abuse: Facts, Trends, and Policy Implications**. *Criminology & Public Policy*, 19(3), 679-704.
3. Hanson, R. K., & Morton-Bourgon, K. (2017). **Predicting Recidivism Among Sex Offenders**. *U.S. Department of Justice Report*.
4. National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. (2022). **Child Exploitation and Repeat Offender Risks**. Retrieved from: www.missingkids.org
5. National School Safety Center. (2022). **Best Practices for Managing Sex Offender School Restrictions**.
6. Seto, M. C., Babchishin, K. M., & Lalumiere, M. L. (2020). **Recidivism and Sexual Grooming Patterns in Offenders**. *Journal of Sexual Aggression*, 26(2), 150-165.

Giving this compelling information, KCSDV requests that the Members of this Committee take the step to protect Kansas children from known threats in their school environment.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michelle McCormick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michelle" and last name "McCormick" clearly legible.

Michelle McCormick, LMSW
Executive Director
Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence