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House of Representatives

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John Resman  
Representative, 121st District

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Chair Warren, Vice-Chair Titus, and Ranking Member Corson thank you for hearing HB 2192. The purpose of testifying today is to express my full support for this bill.

The bill increases the time an offender must be incarcerated prior to being released on work release, granted probation, suspension or reduction of sentence, parole or otherwise released.

The bill requires people convicted of a first offense to undergo a domestic violence offender assessment. Not their third conviction.

It requires as a condition of any grant of probation, suspension of sentence, parole or any other release the offender is required to undergo a domestic violence offender assessment and follow all recommendations, unless otherwise ordered by the court.

Why is this bill important? I have seen firsthand the result of when someone is not held accountable, and things get out of hand that causes a violent encounter between the abuser and victim that causes death.

As some of you may know I am a retired Johnson County Deputy Sheriff. During my career with the Sheriff's Office, I was assigned to the Investigation Division for 21 years during which time I investigated numerous homicides, some of which were the result of domestic violence.

For the past few years, the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence has displayed storyboards at the Capitol that tell many stories of domestic violence and the unchecked anger of an abuser that resulted in a death.

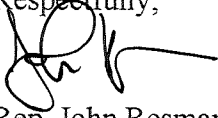
Two of the storyboards that were displayed tell the story of two women that I have a connection with. In both instances the victims were killed by their abuser. I was the officer-in-charge of both investigations that resulted in the arrest and conviction of both suspects, unfortunately both women lost their lives, and their future.

Betty and her husband owned a painting company. While working at her job painting a house she got into an argument with her husband. He grabbed Betty placing her in a headlock shooting her at point blank range in front of co-workers. A year earlier, Betty had filed for a Protection from Abuse Order against her husband, stating that he beat her and threatened to kill her.

Christina decided to end her abusive relationship with her boyfriend on Thanksgiving Day. On that day her boyfriend beat her and slit her throat and held the apartment door closed so that she could not seek help for herself or her unborn child. Christina's boyfriend had a previous history of violence against women.

Passage of this bill would send a strong message that there are severe consequences for an abuser's actions upon their conviction, and not the third time when it may be too late. This also requires that people convicted of a first offense receive an assessment, get the help they need and possibly prevent the death of a loved one.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Resman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rep. John Resman  
House District 121