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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

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**Testimony of the Office of the Attorney General
Written Only Proponent for HB 2192
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
March 13, 2025**

Chairwoman Warren and Members of the Committee:

As the certifying body of Batterer Intervention Programs in Kansas, the Office of Kansas Attorney General, Kris Kobach is writing in support of the amendment to HB 2192, which would require the Kansas Domestic Violence Offender Assessment (KDVOA), to be completed for individuals convicted of a first-time domestic battery offense. This legislation is a critical step in helping to address the root causes of domestic violence and ensuring that those who commit such offenses receive the necessary evaluation and intervention to reduce recidivism.

Domestic violence is a serious issue that affects individuals, families, and communities. Research indicates that early intervention is key in preventing repeat offenses and breaking the cycle of abuse. By requiring an assessment for first-time offenders, this bill ensures that courts and professionals can determine the appropriate level of intervention, including participation in a Certified Batterer Intervention Program.

In the fall of 2015, the Office of the Attorney General staff did a multi-site study in cooperation with the Attorney General's Batterer Intervention Program (BIP) Advisory Board and the Office of Judicial Administration, examining the outcomes of all 2012 graduates from 6 different certified BIP programs across the state. This study found that 88% had not been charged with another "person" crime since their date of completion, and 90% had not had another protection order filed against them in that approximate 3 years since their completion.

Batterer Intervention Programs have been shown to be effective in reducing repeat offenses when properly structured and implemented. These programs are designed to help offenders recognize abusive behaviors, take accountability for their actions, and develop healthier relationship skills. Regional and national studies suggest that when combined with assessments and proper monitoring, BIPs can significantly decrease the likelihood of future violence.

Requiring an assessment for first-time offenders will:

1. **Identify Risk Factors** – An assessment can help professionals determine whether an individual is at high risk for repeated violence and what level of intervention is necessary.
2. **Tailor Treatment Approaches** – Not all offenders have the same background or needs. Assessments ensure that interventions are personalized for maximum effectiveness.
3. **Enhance Public Safety** – By addressing abusive behavior early, this bill amendment can prevent escalation and reduce the burden on law enforcement and the judicial system.
4. **Support Victims and Survivors** – Ensuring offenders receive appropriate intervention contributes to safer outcomes for victims and reduces the likelihood of future harm.

We request your support in the passage of the amendment to HB 2192 to improve offender accountability and help to protect families in Kansas from repeated domestic violence incidents. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Arica Roland

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Office of the Attorney General

Supportive Citation:

BIP Program Evaluation Study Report, Office of the Attorney General, 2016

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