

To: House Judiciary Committee
From: Michelle McCormick, Executive Director, KCSDV
Re: Written-Only Proponent Testimony for SB 358
Date: February 4, 2026

Chairperson Warren and Members of the Committee:

The Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (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, lifesaving services to Kansans. 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 served more than 70,000 Kansans last year. And according to research, that is likely only 40% of those who could use the services, due to the barriers to getting assistance.

KCSDV provides annual training for victim advocates and allied professionals (law enforcement, healthcare, social services etc.) so they can be competent in responding to these complex issues. We trained over 4000 professionals last year. KCSDV also provides expert consultation on the issues of sexual and domestic violence and does so through an average of 1500 contacts for technical assistance each year. In addition, KCSDV collaborates to center the needs of victims and survivors in public policy initiatives through our work with state-level committees, such as co-chairing with the KBI the Kansas Sexual Assault Response Advisory Committee. And we perform the accreditation of the 25 direct service organizations, to ensure that high-quality services are being provided consistently throughout the state.

KCSDV supports SB 358, a bill that would require a person convicted of certain felonies to be held without bond in the county jail awaiting sentencing.

If the person was released on bond prior to trial, then the bond is immediately revoked and remanded to county jail custody until sentencing.

If the person was in custody without posting bond prior to trial, then the bond is immediately modified to no bond and remains in county jail for sentencing.

We commend the victims and survivors who have organized and advocated for this

legislation. This bill is a step forward for holding offenders accountable and centering the needs of survivors and victims. The bill would make an offender of any off-grid felonies; nondrug grid felonies with severity levels 1, 2, 3, or 4; and drug grid felonies with severity level 1 or 2 automatically a no bond status after conviction. These are serious felony crimes that the offender has been convicted of with all of categorized as presumptive imprisonment on the sentencing grids.

While we understand there might be an increased financial burden on county governments due to additional jail time rather than releasing offenders on bond, the safety of the victims, survivors, and community members outweigh those costs. And again there is an element of offender accountability and deterrence that does not have a dollar amount attached.

KCSDV respectfully requests this Committee support the passage of SB 358.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle McCormick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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