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HB 2534
House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice
February 9, 2012

Chairwoman Colloton and Members of the Committee;

The Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (KCSDV) is a statewide non-profit organization whose membership is the 29 sexual and domestic violence programs serving victims across Kansas.

As drafted, HB 2534 presents a potential problem for victims of domestic violence. Specifically, lines 3 and 4 add "or any information concerning a crime or a suspected crime" to the crime of Interference with Law Enforcement. KCSDV's concern is that, given the broadness of this language, some victims of domestic violence who call law enforcement in a panic without knowing the broad implications this may have on their lives or the lives of their husbands, will sometimes recant their story later. This recantation does not mean that the initial story was a false report. Additionally, abusers will often manipulate, coerce or threaten their victims into recanting an earlier report to law enforcement. KCSDV is concerned that by adding this language to K.S.A. 21-5904, it will increase the possibility for victims of being charged with the crime of Interference with Law Enforcement.

KCSDV recommends striking this language in lines 3 and 4 on page 2 of HB 2534. We believe striking this language will not change what is trying to be accomplished.

Submitted by,
Joyce Grover
Executive Director