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House Judiciary Committee
Written Testimony submitted by
Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence

Neutral
HB 2533

The Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence is a statewide network of domestic violence and sexual assault programs providing services for survivors and their children across the state.

As you know, child sexual assault is an issue that is often hidden and unreported. In a recent CDC study, data showed that the women and men interviewed revealed a shocking prevalence in sexual assault over their lifetimes. The majority of this victimization starts early in life – highlighting the importance of prevention efforts and early intervention.

Approximately 80 percent of female victims experienced their first rape before the age of 25 and nearly half experienced the first rape before age 18. Almost a third (28 percent) of men experienced their first rape when they were ten years of age or younger.

This data highlights the need for intervention efforts to begin early and for child sexual assault to be treated seriously by all professionals.

While mandated reporting laws may not be the answer to preventing child sexual abuse, it may be a piece of the puzzle.

What is critical to intervention in child sexual abuse cases is for adults to hear children, believe children, and help children get to the help they need.

Submitted by,
Joyce Grover
Executive Director

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