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House Judiciary Committee Hearing on SB304 3:30 p.m. March 6, 2012 RM346S City of Wichita Opposition Testimony Wichita Municipal Court Judge William Kehr

- The City of Wichita has been a strong supporter of domestic violence victims. It has long been recognized as one of the first cities in Kansas to develop strong domestic violence prosecution programs and policies to help victims of domestic violence.
- Over 4,500 domestic violence cases were filed in the City of Wichita in 2010 and 2011.
- These charges include violation of protection from abuse orders, telephone harassment, battery and disorderly conduct charges.
- Generally, the nature of these crimes does not rise to the level of similar domestic violence offenses filed in the District Courts.
- The bill substantially limits judicial discretion to determine the type and nature of treatment required for these types of criminal violations. Kansas Attorney General treatment guidelines mandate 24 week treatment classes for all domestic violence offenders. The court is stripped of any discretion in the length of treatment ordered.
- The net effect of the bill will increase the cost of assessments and length of treatment for domestic violence offenders prosecuted in municipal court. Many offenders struggle to meet existing financial obligations to the court and to treatment providers.
- Municipalities and Judges are best suited to determine the type and length of domestic violence programs which are appropriate for domestic violence offenders based on the interests of justice and public safety.
- The bill would have a negative impact on local jails which are struggling to address issues with overcrowding.

- The bill would increase the jail costs paid by local governments for offenders who are unable to pay for treatment mandated by the guidelines developed by the Kansas Attorney General's Office.