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MEGAN LYNN
49TH DISTRICT

Written Proponent Testimony for HB2536

Chairman Patton, Vice-chair Ralph, Ranking Member Carmichael, and members of the Judiciary Committee:

As the lead sponsor of HB2536, I would like to submit my testimony in support of the bill, which provides sexual assault survivors with certain rights, also known as The Sexual Assault Survivors' Bill of Rights. This legislation came about in partnership with a national nonprofit organization called Rise, in consultation with KCSDV, and intends to establish the baseline rights of more than 600,000 Kansans who have been a victim of sexual violence at one point in their life. As one of those more than 600,000, I know firsthand the confusion that can set in after an assault. Notifying a survivor of their rights in such an overwhelming situation will provide guidance to move forward in healing and finding justice.

Among the rights that HB2536 would establish it would:

- Guarantee a survivor has the right to consult with a sexual assault counselor and has the right to have a support person of the survivor's choosing present during medical or physical examinations or during interviews by law enforcement, a prosecutor, or a defense attorney.
- Require a survivor to be informed of certain rights prior to a medical evidentiary or physical exam.
- Require the law enforcement officer or medical provider who initially interacts with a survivor to provide the survivor with a document that explains the survivor's rights.
- Establish the right for a survivor to have retained counsel present during all stages of any medical or physical examination, interview, investigation, or other interaction with the legal or criminal justice system.
- Require a survivor's right to shower at no cost after the medical or physical examination unless shower facilities are not available.

The Sexual Assault Survivors Bill of Rights Act passed unanimously through the U.S. House and Senate in 2016, and since then 26 states have adopted their own version of bill. I appreciate the testimony submitted by the AG's office, KCSDV, and the law enforcement community; we have agreed to further discuss solutions to the concerns presented today. We are all committed to letting survivors of sexual assault know we stand beside them during the most trying time in their life.

Thank you for your time and consideration today.

Sincerely,

Representative Megan Lynn | Kansas House District 49