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BARB WASINGER
111TH DISTRICT

Tuesday, March 22, 2022. The day that Karen Schumacher took her last breath. Her husband, Jay, was arrested and charged with aggravated battery, domestic battery and mistreatment of a dependent adult.

The county attorney's office said, "the state now alleges that the crime(s) committed now include 1) murder in the first degree under the theory of felony murder — mistreatment of a dependent adult; 2) aggravated battery; 3) domestic battery, and 4) mistreatment of a on suspicion of aggravated battery, domestic battery and mistreatment of a dependent adult."

Karen suffered for years of repeated domestic abuse. After her death, there was a final blow in Probate. Nothing in Probate law addressed distribution of funds to beneficiaries who are arrested for or charged with felonious killing or procuring the killing of a person whom they would inherit from.

Karen's son, Jeremiah, was able to go to court and prevent his father from being able take the proceeds from his mom's estate to either bond out of jail or pay for his defense. His mom's estate would be kept in probate until disposition of his father's case.

That's when Jeremiah came to me to get to amend probate law. This bill adds subsection (c) K.S.A 59-513, commonly know as the slayer law, that protects the victim's estate from being used to help the very person who is accused of killing them.

Barb Wasinger
Kansas House of Representatives
District 111