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Senate Judiciary Committee

SB 304

Assistant Attorney General Travis Harrod

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Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 304. I am the Assistant Attorney General responsible for prosecution of domestic violence offenses referred to the office of Attorney General Schmidt.

SB 304 would authorize the Attorney General to create rules and regulations for the purpose of certification and regulation of batterer intervention programs (BIP) throughout Kansas. This bill completes the work the Legislature began with the passage of Senate Substitute for House Bill 2517, the Domestic Violence Designation Law, in 2010. The DV Designation Law will achieve increased safety for the victims of domestic violence by tracking domestic violence convictions, and by directing offenders into certified BIP's. To ensure accountability for offenders and safety for victims, SB 304 gives the Attorney General the ability to create a universal set of standards and rules that BIP's must meet and continue to practice in order to be certified to provide BIP services. This state wide certification of BIP's will ensure that the victims of domestic violence and the offenders referred to BIP will receive the same level of intervention and service, no matter where they live in Kansas.

I look forward to providing any information or help that I can as the Judiciary Committee considers this bill.