

SB 304  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
January 30, 2012

**PROPONENT**

Chairman Owens and Members of the Committee;

The Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (KCSDV) is a statewide non-profit organization whose membership is the 29 sexual and domestic violence programs serving victims across Kansas.

KCSDV has been involved in the creation of The Essential Elements and Standards for Batterer Intervention Programs (Standards) in Kansas for many years. In 2000, or around that time, KCSDV convened a group called the Kansas Association of Batterer Intervention Programs and together with state partners created the Standards. These Standards were approved by a wide cross-section of state agencies and partners. In 2007, the Governor's Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board adopted them as best-practice standards and encouraged their use in Kansas.

In 2009, Attorney General Steven Six began using the Standards to train and certify batterer intervention programs.

Today, SB 304 takes this work to the next level and provides additional authority for the Attorney General's office to certify all programs intending to provide batterer intervention services in Kansas. Certification of batterer intervention programs is critical as it requires consideration of victim safety and confidentiality throughout the process of providing these services. Victim safety and confidentiality is a critical underpinning for any programs purporting to intervene with batterers. We understand there are concerns from at least one professional organization and KCSDV looks forward to working with the Attorney General's Office and the professional association to address these concerns.

Nonetheless, without certification, batterer intervention programs can become drop-in, cursory programs that fail to address domestic violence seriously. Certification requires that these programs take the issue seriously and follow best practices.

Submitted by,  
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