

HB 2048
Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice
February 2, 2017
Written Testimony
Support

Chairman Jennings and Members of the Committee:

This testimony is submitted today on behalf of the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (KCSDV) in support of HB 2048. KCSDV is a statewide non-profit organization whose membership is the 28 sexual and domestic violence programs serving victims across Kansas. Not only do programs work with adult victims of sexual and domestic violence but they also work with child victims and adult survivors of child sexual abuse.

KCSDV supports HB 2048, also called "Erin's Law." Child sexual abuse can have severe, long term health and emotional impacts. We know that one way to protect children from abuse is to educate them about appropriate and inappropriate conduct. Children should have access to evidence based age appropriate information so they are better able to understand when and how to report any potential sexual abuse.

By using an opt-out provision, we make sure that children are not missing this important education because parental permission forms either do not reach the parent or are not returned. Additionally, children may be abused by their parents or legal guardians, who may not, under an opt-in provision, permit their children to receive information that might stop future abuse. As a consequence, important health and safety education information does not reach the child.

Children need this information for their own safety. For this reason, KCSDV supports HB 2048.

Submitted by,


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