

HB 2621
Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice
WRITTEN TESTIMONY
February 13, 2018
SUPPORT

The Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (KCSDV) is a statewide non-profit organization whose membership is the 27 sexual and domestic violence programs serving victims across Kansas. KCSDV provides information; training; and analysis and policy work on issues impacting victims of domestic and sexual violence, their families, and their communities.

Law enforcement officers are some of our closest allies in the work to protect victims and their children from domestic violence and sexual assault. These officers often have contact with victims during a time when they are most vulnerable, unsettled, and unsure of next steps.

As early as 2011, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, building from a variety of tools created to address the crime of sexual assault including Sexual Assault Investigative Guidelines, a Model Policy on Sexual Assault, and a roll call training video on preparing sexual assault cases for effective prosecution, assembled a multidisciplinary working group to guide efforts to examine sexual offenses committed by law enforcement officers. (See attached.) The IACP believes a comprehensive approach is needed, including training, written guidance, and immediate investigative response. HB2621 is a big step in that direction for Kansas.

An incident that has received significant national attention is a recent one where two undercover officers in New York City repeatedly raped an 18 year old young woman they picked up during a drug bust and then called the sex consensual. Video footage showed them dropping her blocks from law enforcement headquarters. A sexual assault exam connected semen found on her body to the officers. This could not be consensual. These are the types of officers that are the focus of HB2621.

Any kind of sexual contact between an officer and a person in custody or being interviewed as a victim is concerning. The nature of victimization and the power dynamics between law enforcement and those they may be interviewing or interrogating cannot be ignored and can easily be taken advantage of. Sex in these situations cannot be consensual.

KCSDV supports HB2621 and believes it would offer some additional protection for vulnerable victims as well as offenders.

Joyce Grover, Executive Director



Addressing Sexual Offenses and Misconduct by Law Enforcement:

EXECUTIVE GUIDE

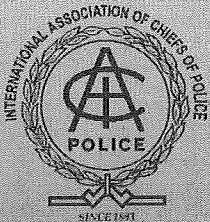


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Every effort has been made to ensure that this document reflects current and comprehensive information. A wide array of feedback was solicited, and many subject matter experts contributed their knowledge.

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