

State of Kansas

Senate Chamber

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Chairman Wilborn and committee members,

Thank you for granting Senate Bill 101 a hearing. This bill came from talks some legislators had with the Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault {MOCSA} prior to the session. Presently, victims of sexual assault are not statutorily authorized to obtain a protective order unless there has been two incidents involving the perpetrator. MOCSA advocated to reduce the number of incidents where a victim was denied an order.

Per the American Bar Association Commission on Domestic & Sexual Violence, 29 states have enacted laws guaranteeing victims of sexual assault the right to obtain a protective order. It is surprising and alarming that the state of Kansas has not enacted such law. Kansas is one of 17 states that do not have civil protection orders for sexual assault victims. Neighboring states Colorado, Missouri, and Oklahoma all have this option. Also, the fiscal cost of this would be nothing.

The emotional and psychological implications of being a victim of sexual assault are very damaging to the person's way of life. When victims feel their lives are still in danger, they should have the ability to obtain a protective order through the judicial system. Unfortunately, victims are turned down because, again, current law does not allow them to have a protection. Not only does this create confusion for the victim, it also forces the victim to believe the judicial system or law enforcement are against them.

Twenty-seven senators have signed onto this bill because of the importance and common sense nature.

Again, thank you for allowing this bill a hearing. It is imperative this bill is passed for the safety of Kansans.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat Pettey".

Senator Pat Pettey