

Committee Cover Sheet
Senate

BILL #:

HB 2075

Date of Testimony:

Feb. 17, 2020

Name of person testifying:

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KCSDV

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PLEASE CHECK ONE:

- Proponent x
- Neutral _____
- Opponent _____

PLEASE CHECK ONE:

- Speaking & written Testimony ✓
- Written only Testimony _____

HB 2675
Committee on Judiciary
WRITTEN TESTIMONY
February 17, 2020
SUPPORT

The Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (KCSDV) is a statewide non-profit organization whose membership is the 26 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.

HB 2675 amends the current protection order scheme in the law. Currently, victims of sexual assault, stalking, domestic violence, and/or human trafficking can file a petition with the district court for a protection order. These orders are aimed at stopping or protecting against behavior that degrades, humiliates and terrorizes victims.

The protection order, if granted after filing a petition and attending the hearing, is in place for one year. Unfortunately, for many victims, one year is not long enough because the threats and violence continue. At the end of one year, a victim can petition for an extended order. HB 2675 is aimed at creating additional qualifying terms for a victim to receive an extended order. These orders can be in place up to the lifetime of the defendant (abuser, perpetrator).

Some states issue a lifetime order as the initial protection order. In Kansas, we've decided to issue a one-year order. But many victims remain afraid for their safety after one year and need an order in place for the foreseeable future. In the absence of criminal sanctions against abusers and perpetrators, victims turn to civil protection orders to increase their safety. KCSDV strongly supports HB 2675 because it would allow victims who continue to fear for their safety and need protections in place to have access to a protective order designed to help a victim be safer and feel safer. And, importantly, because victims need and deserve safety.

Submitted by,
Sara Rust-Martin
Director of Legal and Policy
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