



Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center
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Chairman Jennings and Members of the Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share our support of HB 2048 Regarding Erin's Law.

I am Vicki Hubin, Project Coordinator with the Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center. Child Abuse happens everywhere and in all our communities. Awareness is one of the keys to stopping child abuse. We brought Erin Merryn to speak at a Luncheon we were sponsoring, and also to the Scott City Junior High and High School. As she was talking about her abuse, her life, and telling her story, to Grades 7 – 12 students, she held the attention of absolutely everyone in the auditorium, you could have heard a pin drop, for the entire hour and half presentation. When Erin was through speaking, we had 5 youth disclose. The disclosures were the same, Erin's story was THEIR story! Child abuse is real, and it happens in every community.

I recently was asked to do a presentation at an Elementary School for about 400 kids on awareness about child abuse. The parents were also invited, and several of them attended. We started out talking about secrets and surprises. How a secret is never ok to keep, and the differences between a secret and a surprise.

We then talked about phone safety. I was very surprised, and you will be too, that some of the kindergartners had cell phones. Not just cell phones, but smart phones. So if the kindergartners have phones, then you know the upper class do too. We talked about phone safety, texting naked pictures, and what to do if someone asked you to send them a naked picture of you. Then I had one kindergartner ask, what am I supposed to do if someone sends me a naked picture of them? That took my breath away! These kids need to be educated!

These are just some of the many points we talked about that day, and I had hoped that I had brought some awareness to the kids about what to do, or who they could tell, if something was happening to them. A few days later, I was shopping at a local discount store, and I had about 15 kids come up, and introduce me to their parents, and tell them that I was the one that had talked to them about safety, and keeping them safe. Then I knew that I had gotten through to them, and that these kids need and want to be educated on child abuse and safety, and more importantly, what to do if something is happening to them.

We tell our kids to tell their parents if someone is abusing them, or hurting them, but do we teach them what to do if the perpetrator is their parent? Then who can they tell? Erin's Law would do that! Erin's Law is what Kansas needs! Help us help our kids!

Thank you so much for your consideration of this bill and thank you for helping the kids of Kansas!