

HB 2113
House Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Written Testimony
February 17, 2022
Proponent

Chairman Barker and Members of the Committee:

The Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (KCSDV) is a statewide non-profit organization whose membership is the 25 sexual and domestic violence programs serving victims across Kansas. KCSDV provides information, training, and analysis on issues impacting victims of domestic and sexual violence, their families, and their communities. Our members, the local advocacy programs, are committed to providing quality services to victims of sexual assault and domestic violence, empowering victims to live independently without the ongoing fear of violence, and helping victims secure the resources necessary for a safe and healthy future.

Sexual and domestic violence can happen to anyone. It is not limited to any specific race, gender, or socio-economic group. However, there are certain segments of the population that experience violence at a higher rate than others. Asian-American Pacific Islanders are victimized at alarmingly high rates. An estimated 16-55% of Asian women report experiencing intimate physical and/or sexual violence during their lifetimes.¹ 23% of Asian and Pacific Islander women report experiencing some form of contact sexual violence during their lifetime.²

We are rapidly approaching the anniversary of the mass shooting targeting Asian women that occurred in Atlanta last year. That incident was indicative of an ongoing increase in violence born out of racism and misogyny that has been targeted at the Asian community, specifically at its women. While that horrific killing spree drew national attention to some of the issues affecting the Asian community, it is incumbent on us to remember it and learn from it. Creating a commission that empowers its members to address the challenges faced by our Asian and Pacific Islander neighbors would be an important step in that process.

For the reasons stated above, KCSDV supports the passage of HB 2113.

Sincerely submitted on behalf of KCSDV,

Lindsie Ford, JD
Public Policy Attorney
KCSDV

¹ Mieko Yoshihama, Ph.D., Chic Dabby, and Shirley Luo, *Facts & Stats Report, Updated & Expanded 2020 Domestic Violence in Asian & Pacific Islander Homes*, Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence, October 2020.

² *Sexual Violence in Asian and Pacific Islander Communities*, Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence, April 2018.