



STATE OF KANSAS
Tenth Judicial District

OFFICE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY

STEPHEN M. HOWE, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Chair Stephen Owens
House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice
Re: House Bill 2740

February 13, 2024

Dear Chair Owens:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my written testimony in support of House Bill 2740. My name is Will Hurst, and I am an Assistant District Attorney in Johnson County. I have been prosecuting since 2007 and been with the Johnson County District Attorney's Office since 2011. I have supervised our Domestic Violence Unit since 2019. I have personally handled hundreds of domestic violence cases during my career.

Domestic violence is a pervasive issue that affects Kansans from all walks of life. The devastating impact of domestic violence requires our attention and action. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recognized that domestic violence is connected to other forms of violence and is related to serious health issues and economic consequences.¹

HB 2740 targets repeat domestic violent offenders. In order to be convicted of Felony Domestic Battery, the offender must be convicted of domestic battery three times in the past five years. Currently, Felony Domestic Battery is a non-grid felony where any incarceration is served in the local county jail. While there is a mandatory imprisonment of 90 days, an offender may serve such time on work release after only 48 hours in jail.

HB 2740 places Felony Domestic Battery on the sentencing grid as a severity level 7, person felony. The mandatory imprisonment of 90 days remains the same, but now the offender must serve the entire 90 days in a jail without the benefit a work release program.

HB 2740 targets persistent domestic violence abusers. Any offender who manages to be convicted of three violent crimes in such a short time period should face tough consequences. I wholeheartedly give the bill my full support.

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/fastfact.html>

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at 913-715-3072 or at will.hurst@jocogov.org.

Sincerely,



William F. Hurst IV
Assistant District Attorney
Johnson County District Attorney's Office