

HB 2480  
Committee on Judiciary  
WRITTEN TESTIMONY  
March 13, 2018

**SUPPORT**

Chairman Wilborn and Members of the Committee:

Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence supports HB 2480.

The Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (KCSDV) is a statewide non-profit organization whose membership is the 27 sexual and domestic violence programs serving victims across Kansas. KCSDV provides information, analysis, and policy work on issues impacting victims of domestic and sexual violence, their families, and their communities.

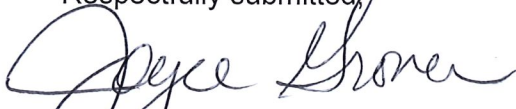
HB 2480 amends the Kansas law enforcement training act to further clarify actions included in the definition of misdemeanor crime of domestic violence. Currently, someone who uses violence in a dating relationship may not be subject to the same conditions set forward in this training act as someone who has abused a spouse or former spouse or household member.

Since 2002, Kansas law has recognized that domestic violence can occur and can be just as serious in a dating relationship as it is in a marriage or a relationship where cohabitation is or has occurred. Protection orders are available to victims in a dating relationship who have been subject to abuse but who have not lived with their abuser.

Expanding this definition expands protection. Law enforcement officers perform critical roles in our communities and must be of exemplary character. This expanded definition of what can be counted as a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence for purposes of law enforcement certification and training holds our law enforcement officers to the highest standard. KCSDV is supportive of the law enforcement community reaching for these highest standards.

KCSDV believes HB 2480 is a positive move forward for Kansas safety.

Respectfully submitted,



Joyce Grover  
Executive Director