

HB2150
House Committee on Judiciary
March 17, 2021
PROPONENT

The Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (KCSDV) is a statewide non-profit organization whose members are 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 sexual and domestic violence, their families, and their communities.

KCSDV supports HB2150 as financial exploitation can happen to any person at any age. Financial exploitation undermines an individual's sense of trust, self-worth, and independence.

Adults with intellectual disabilities and the elderly often have limited or fixed incomes. Financial exploitation for these individuals can be particularly devastating as they take significantly longer to fully recover their lost assets. Employment opportunities for the elderly or those with disabilities are not as readily available as they are for the young or able-bodied. Identifying and addressing financial exploitation as quickly as possible helps to minimize the long-term impacts of the exploitation.

Power and control dynamics, similar to those seen in domestic violence and sexual assault cases are often present in relationships that result in financial exploitation. Financial exploitation of an older adult that is perpetrated by someone in an ongoing relationship (e.g., spouse, partner, family member, or caregiver) with the victim can not only have financial repercussions but can also undermine a victim's access to their support network. Financial exploitation, like all other types of abuse, rarely occurs as an isolated event and is most likely not the only form of harm being enacted against the victim. The expanded definition proposed in this bill articulates the wide range of behaviors that make up financial exploitation. By clarifying what the abusive behavior looks like, service providers and other individuals in the victims' life can more readily identify that the exploitation is occurring and offer services to protect them from further harm.

KCSDV supports the passage of HB2150.

Respectfully submitted,
Lindsie Ford
KCSDV Staff Attorney