

**HB 2461**  
**House Committee on Taxation**  
**Proponent Testimony**  
**February 7, 2022**

Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee:

The Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (KCSDV) is a statewide non-profit organization whose membership is the twenty-five 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.

**KCSDV supports the passage of HB 2461.** Economic hardships continue to be one of the most substantial barriers victims face in establishing a safe and stable life after their abuse.

Domestic and sexual violence can impact individuals from all socio-economic backgrounds but financial abuse and isolation tactics by an abuser can leave any survivor in a position where they do not have access to the means they need to support themselves. Many of our member programs have “Hygiene Closets” which are stocked by community donations. This service provides survivors with basic hygiene items, such as shampoo, soap, toilet paper, pads, tampons, and diapers. The necessity of these services highlights the need for some economic relief related to these items.

Eliminating the sales tax for basic necessities would go a long way to supporting these victims as they try to rebuild their lives. In a situation where every dollar saved could mean the difference between a survivor providing a safe home to their children or having to return to a potentially lethal environment, we simply cannot afford to keep taxing our citizens for the fundamental things they need to survive.

We know that it can take victims several tries to leave an abusive situation before they are able to successfully do so. Barriers to successfully establishing a new life and means for supporting themselves, contribute greatly to why a victim might go back to their abuser. Any efforts this legislature can make to lessen those barriers can significantly increase a victim’s chances of successfully ending an abusive relationship.

Because this legislation could be life-changing for so many victims of domestic and sexual violence, **KCSDV strongly supports the passage of HB 2461.**

Sincerely submitted on behalf of KCSDV,

Lindsie Ford, JD  
Public Policy Attorney