

HB2151
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY
March 23, 2021
SUPPORT

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 HB2151 as abuse and exploitation can happen to a person at any age.

Abuse in later life (ALL) is the willfull abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation of an older adult that is perpetrated by someone in on ongoing relationship (e.g., spouse, partner, family member, or caregiver) with the victim. As such, the term Abuse in later life calls attention to the nexus between domestic violence, sexual assault, and elder abuse.

Abuse in later life is the segment of elder abuse that focuses specifically on those cases where the abuse is perpetrated by someone in an ongoing relationship (e.g., spouse, partner, family member, or caregiver) with the victim. Sexual abuse and stalking by an offender who is known to the victim or a stranger is also included in the definition. Older persons who fit the statutory definition in Kansas of vulnerable adults and are in a relationship with their abuser may also be victims of abuse in later life. Power and control dynamics, similar to those seen in domestic violence and sexual assault cases involving younger victims, are often present in abuse in later life situations; therefore, older victims may benefit from services provided by domestic and sexual violence programs.

KCSDV supports the passage of HB2151.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsie Ford
KCSDV Staff Attorney