

Testimony to House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice  
Chair, Representative J. Russell Jennings  
Hearing: Friday, February 22, 2019

**Position - Support HB 2299**

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in strong support for HB 2299. This bill would close a much-needed loop hole in current law.

The age of consent in Kansas is 16 which means children 16 and under do not have the developmental ability to give consent to have sex. These victims of sexual violence suffer great emotional distress. The National Center for Victims of Crime states "Victims may feel powerless because the abuse has repeatedly violated their body space and acted against their will through coercion and manipulation...(victimsofcrime.org).

Within this relationship between the child and the adult abuser, there is a power imbalance. The adult abuser has the power and should maintain responsibility for any crime he or she commits. This adult should not be permitted to partially attribute their crime to the very child that he or she has been sexually abusing.

I strongly urge the Committee to PASS this bill.

Thank you,

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