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DINAH H. SYKES
SENATE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

March 2, 2022
SB 192 - Proponent
ORAL In-Person Testimony

Chairman Olson and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony in support of Senate Bill 192.

In 2018 we passed legislation to ensure Kansas is in compliance with federal law requiring the relinquishment of firearms in cases of qualifying protection orders, domestic battery convictions, and domestic violence misdemeanors. After that became law, many of our law enforcement agencies adopted practices to enforce it, but there is no universal structure in statute. This has led to confusion in our communities, inconsistent application of the law, and in some cases, grievous consequences for victims of domestic violence. Senate Bill 192 would rectify that.

In 2019, the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence partners responded to over 37,000 crisis hotline calls and served over 69,000 individuals. Our law enforcement agencies reported a significant increase in domestic violence incidents during the height of the pandemic. The legislation passed in 2018 was passed with bipartisan support with a clear goal of reducing domestic gun violence. This bill creates a path to achieving that goal and ensuring that violent individuals do not have access to lethal force that they can – and statistically are likely to – use to hurt our families and communities.

I urge the committee to recommend this bill favorably for passage, and I look forward to answering your questions.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dinah H. Sykes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Senator Dinah Sykes