

**Senate Ways and Means Committee
In Opposition to SB218
Submitted by Harvey County DV/SA Task Force, Inc
February 27, 2013**

**Protection From Abuse Fund (K.S.A. 74-7325)
for Kansas Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services**

Chairman Masterson and Members of the Committee:

The Harvey County Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Task Force is ***among the many Kansas Crisis Programs “OPERATING AT CAPACITY”*** at this time. During this last twelve months, consistent-individual advocacy has increased **26%**; services through our program are at risk, with providing victim' safety, critical services and stability because of the demand for services has increased tremendously and funding cuts. We are literally running out of room at the shelter, using "bed space" on air mattresses in the Safe House' living room to provide a safe place for families.

Through our program- families receive emergency shelter, crisis intervention, and extensive advocacy on housing, employment, continued education, medical needs, financial budgeting, legal resources, substance abuse and basic necessary needs.

Harvey County and the communities we serve are no different than the other many communities in Kansas that are experiencing increased demand in victim services. Our program provides services in Newton Kansas, during the last two years the Newton Police Department recently reported that they are averaging **31** domestic violence cases per month.

The Harvey County DV/SA Task Force is strongly opposed to SB218. The PFA Fund provides crucial operating expenses for our program. Reduced grant support and current economics have placed our program at risk in providing domestic and sexual violence victim's safety, critical services and stability. It is important that we continue to sustain victim services; to reduce the barriers for victims of domestic and sexual assault in Kansas for victims and their children. Their safety, health and well-being will literally be compromised if we do not receive PFA funding.

Our Program, among all domestic and sexual violence programs in Kansas are required to meet specific standards of compliance with regulations, policies and procedures. The agency must comply with evaluative, statistical, and financial reporting requirements stated in applicable state statutes and regulations; the PFA funds we receive directly support these required standards.

The PFA Fund is essential for the families we serve – for the many victims and children across Kansas that we provide core services for. We strongly plead to this Committee to not pass SB218 and to sustain the current court and docket fee structure in Kansas. Without the PFA Funds, the cost to Kansas' families effected by sexual and domestic violence will be great; and we

will face the possibility of not being able to continue the services crucial to the victims and their children we serve.

Respectfully,
Jan Jones
Executive Director
Harvey County DV/SA Task Force, Inc