



Remarkably
Resilient®

It takes all of us to heal each of us.™

Our Mission: Empowering healing from trauma

Our Vision: Changing the world by strengthening community resilience one person at a time

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HB 2576 Establishing Erin's Law

Position on bill: Neutral (Amendments are needed for us to support this bill)

Oral In-Person if I can finish by 2:15pm, Otherwise Written only (I have a focus group to facilitate at 3pm)

Date of Hearing: February 9, 2026

Chair Estes, Vice Chair McNorton, Ranking Minority Member Stogsdill and Members of the Committee and Staff:

I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2576. I do not normally provide testimony but felt compelled to do so. My identical twin sisters and I are all three adult survivors of a childhood home riddled with incest, abuse, and neglect that we suffered at the hands of our father and paternal grandfather in our small western Kansas town of Kinsley, the county seat of Edwards County.

My sisters and I did not speak of our abuse and incest until our mid-50s when I first learned about ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences). I have an ACE score of 9 out of 10, my sister Sharon, an ACE score of 10 and my sister, Karen, would have a 20 if that was possible as she was also trafficked and tortured by our father and paternal grandfather. In 2019, after two years of reading and researching about ACEs and the neuroscience of trauma and resilience, my twin sisters and I published our stories of survival and resilience in our book, *Remarkably Resilient: Community Matters*. Since then, we have provided free workshops and presentations and went on in May 2023, to launch Remarkably Resilient Together, a community wide campaign to raise awareness about trauma and stress, its impact on our bodies and brains and to teach resilience strengthening skills. Johnson County Mental Health Center is a key partner in this effort, reviewing all materials before publication to ensure they were evidence-informed and aligned with best practices.

I appear before you today as a survivor of incest well-informed by the neuroscience of trauma, as a published author, national speaker, a Tufts University Certified HOPE (Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences) facilitator, a Kansan, and CEO of our Kansas-based non-profit, Remarkably Resilient, Inc. whose mission is to “empower healing from trauma.”

I appreciate the spirit of HB 2576.

I appreciate you shedding light on child sexual abuse because it is the darkness that allows it to persist.

I have four concerns to convey to the Committee:

- 1) Training programs that deal with this very sensitive topic need to be at a minimum, evidence-informed and aligned with best practices. This quality requirement is missing from this piece of legislation.
- 2) Section 1. (b) (2) use of the word “prevent” to me infers a child can prevent the abuse from happening. This is not only false, but this language points a finger of blame and shame toward the child. Please understand that when you are in a home where incest and abuse are committed, you are TRAPPED as a child. Please know that the perpetrators do everything in their power to control you and keep you from reporting. Their techniques include but are not limited to brainwashing, pitting siblings against each other, inflicted torture, threats of death to those you love (at some point you don’t care anymore if you die), and escalated violent attacks. How does a child at any age, that has known nothing but incest and abuse, prevent it from happening? Knowing how to report is important. We suggest requiring safety protocols be firmly in place as the child may be risking their life and the lives of those people and animals they love when they report.
- 3) Section 1. (b) (3) which allows parents to opt out is beyond my ability to understand. I can assure you that our parents would have opted out. This provision keeps incest out of the light and in the darkness - and it is the darkness that allows it to persist. Incest is real. Children are trapped. This provision protects the perpetrators of incest.
- 4) My early career included an internship with Dr. W. Edwards Deming, the father of the quality management movement. I joined Dr. Deming on the East Coast helping facilitate his four-day workshops and joined him for executive coaching sessions he provided at General Motors and Ford Motor Company, Detroit, MI. As some of you may be aware, Dr. Deming was an internationally recognized expert at helping organizations improve the effectiveness and efficiency of their organization through the engagement of their employees. What he taught me that applies to this bill is that process and quality matter if your goals are to be efficient and effective. This bill from what I can tell does not provide funding for what it says is important and it does not require quality – that is evidence-based or evidence-informed approaches. With neither funding nor required quality, I struggle to see how this piece of legislation can be either effective or efficient which is concerning.

I urge the Committee to hear from more voices of incest survivors and to include the necessary funding and quality standards to ensure implementation of the vision you have set forth in HB 2576 can be realized.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony related to HB 2576. I am happy to provide additional information as requested.

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