



February 9, 2026

Emily Barnes, Education Policy Advisor

Kansas Action for Children

[emily@kac.org](mailto:emily@kac.org)

Proponent Written-only Testimony to HB 2576 – Erin’s Law  
House Committee on Education

Chairperson Estes and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2576, otherwise known as Erin’s Law, which would educate students and ultimately prevent sexual abuse and assault.

Erin’s Law requires that children and their teachers receive instruction on body safety and child sexual abuse prevention. Coupled with informational resources for families, it is a prevention-focused strategy resulting in positive results in 38 states across the nation.<sup>1</sup>

Child sexual abuse goes largely underreported and creates devastating harm and lifelong trauma to the child. Children might not disclose the abuse until they have faced manipulation and threats from the abuser. Access to age-appropriate education focused on body safety helps a child feel safe enough to talk about their experience, which can stop the ongoing abuse. For instance, 21 students in Hilton, New York, reported abuse by their principal after participating in an Erin’s Law lesson.<sup>2</sup>

**KAC appreciates the comprehensive requirement in the bill for annual training to all teachers in a school district, as well as age-appropriate instruction to the students, combined with communication and resources for parents.**

Prevention education provides tools to keep kids safe. KAC supports efforts to teach students, parents, and educators the difference between safe and unsafe touches and secrets and the dynamics of grooming. We also see that these safety lessons teach children boundaries and how to speak up, hopefully leading to ending the manipulation and secrecy that hurts them.

One important factor in this process is equipping the educators in a child’s life to recognize the signs of abuse and grooming, then using that to respond as mandated reporters to interrupt

---

<sup>1</sup> Erin’s Law. (n.d.) *What Is Erin’s Law?* <https://www.erinslaw.org/erins-law/>

<sup>2</sup> Napier, J. (June 30, 2023). *Hilton Schools Face Calls for Transparency after Former Principal’s Child Sexual Abuse Conviction*. 13WHAM ABC. Jackie <https://13wham.com/news/local/calls-for-transparency-and-accountability-in-hilton-school-district-investigation>

dangerous patterns. The ability to adopt existing curriculum and/or utilize training resources from a child advocacy center ideally will lead to effective implementation in the schools.

**I ask you to pass HB 2576 to establish Erin's Law in Kansas and take this crucial step to protect children, empower families, and strengthen our schools.** With HB 2576, Kansas can join the movement across the nation to reduce abuse and harm to our children, giving hope for bright futures. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this topic. You can reach me at [emily@kac.org](mailto:emily@kac.org) if you have any additional questions.

---

### ***About Kansas Action for Children***

KAC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy organization working to make Kansas a place where every child has the opportunity to grow up healthy and thrive. KAC does not receive any funding from local, state, or federal government sources; however, we have a keen interest in the state budget because of its impact on children and families.