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Senator Kate Bolz to Introduce Sexual Assault Survivors Bill of Rights Legislation

October 2, 2018 (Lincoln, NE) -- Senator Kate Bolz announced today that she will introduce legislation to establish rights for survivors of sexual assault in Nebraska. The Sexual Assault Survivors Bill of Rights will ensure that survivors of sexual assault are notified of formal and informal supports available to them during medical and law enforcement interactions.

“There are many reasons why survivors of sexual assault choose not to come forward, but we must do all we can to ensure that victims are aware of the rights they hold in our criminal justice system” said Senator Kate Bolz. “This legislation gives survivors of sexual assault the information they need to make informed decisions about the resources that are available to them at the time of reporting. Learning more about what steps to take following sexual violence can help victims in a difficult time.” Bolz noted that she made the decision after hearing from constituents in recent weeks.

The legislation was developed with the assistance and support of the Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence. The legislation requires that survivors be notified of their existing rights under current law when contacting law enforcement or medical personnel. The rights of survivors of sexual assault include:

- The right to be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect;
- The right to consult with a sexual assault counselor or victims advocate;
- The right to be informed;
- The right to be heard and participate in the criminal justice process;
- The right to timely disposition of the case;
- The right to notice about the status of the case; and
- The right to apply for compensation.

Each day hundreds of Americans are affected by sexual violence. Every 98 seconds, an American is sexually assaulted. And every 8 minutes, that victim is a child. The Sexual Assault Survivors Bill of Rights will give survivors consistent guidelines and information during an uncertain and traumatic time.

Previously, Senator Bolz introduced the Sexual Assault Survivors Bill of Rights Act, LB1126, during the 2018 legislative session. A new, streamlined version will be introduced in 2019.

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