



Proponent Testimony on House Bill 2653

House Federal and State Affairs Committee | February 15, 2024

Chairman Carpenter and Members of the committee,

I am Jeanne Gawdun, Director of Government Relations with Kansasans for Life. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2653.

Many women facing unexpected pregnancies choose abortion because of financial insecurity or uncertain relationship status.¹ They deserve the utmost help in their time of need, including support from the father of the preborn child.

According to 2022 data from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, 36% of all births were to single mothers and 84.5% of all abortions were performed on single women.²

HB 2653 addresses some of the financial concerns pregnant women face by instructing the court to consider the direct pregnancy-related medical and other expenses for the mother of a preborn child, when establishing guidelines for child support payments.

While it may not always be the case that paternity is known before the birth of the child, once paternity is established, the court may make child support payments retroactive to include expenses incurred by the mother during the time her child was unborn.

No woman should ever feel that abortion is her only option and HB 2653 may help alleviate some of the financial stress a pregnant woman faces at a critical time for her and her child.

Thank you for your consideration. I respectfully ask that the committee pass HB 2653 out favorably.

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¹<https://www.verywellhealth.com/reasons-for-abortion-906589>

²<https://www.kdhe.ks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/31759/2022-Annual-Summary-Full-Report-PDF>