



Kansas Family Voice Testimony in Support of H.B. 2789

House Health & Welfare Committee

Brittany Jones

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Chairwomen Landwehr, and members of the Committee, my name is Brittany Jones. I am an attorney and the Director of Policy and Engagement for Kansas Family Voice. Kansas Family Voice cares deeply about ensuring women in difficult situations receive the support they need throughout their pregnancy and encouraging the growth of our state's population. Thank you for the opportunity to share with you our reasons for supporting H.B. 2789.

In 2022, the state had the lowest birth rate since we started keeping a centralized system in 1911.¹ This decrease in birth rates has been happening consistently since 2008.² Losing population has downstream impacts on our society as well as our economy. Our state needs to work to promote childbirth.

The Pregnancy Compassion Act does just this. It is a program that is specifically designed to help women carry their babies to term in Kansas. Through awareness and connecting women to resources around the state, we can help women in difficult situations. It meets a true need that our state has to come along side women in need and give them much needed support.

Seventeen other states have similar programs including neighboring Missouri and Oklahoma.³ This program is already supporting women across the state. Some of the services provided are things like educational classes, counseling, mentoring, referrals to social service and health programs and material items.

By moving this program into statute, it allows these organizations to continue the important work they are already doing, impacting women across our state. One note, like the fund that exists in the budget now, we prefer that the fund come from the state general fund rather than an increase in license plate fees.

Pregnancy Resource Centers provide vital support to women who are pregnant. Many provide care for years after a child is born. Whether a woman is abortion minded, pregnancy resource centers often help women with ultrasounds, diapers, clothing, and in getting social services. Many provide educational classes & other supportive services to help parents make the best decision for their families. There are more than fifty-seven centers across Kansas that provide resources for women.

¹ Preliminary Birth Report Kansas, 2022.

² Preliminary Birth Report Kansas, 2022.

³ Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Wisconsin, and West Virginia.



The Pregnancy Compassion Act, supports ongoing efforts to help women in time of need. Supporting childbirth & healthy parenting is a legitimate state aim. We should do all we can to support moms across our state!

Thank you!