



**Proponent Testimony on HB 2429**  
**House Health and Human Services Committee**

**March 7, 2023**

Chairwoman Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2429. My name is Jeanne Gawdun and I am the Director of Government Relations with Kansans for Life (KFL).

KFL and its statewide membership strongly support life-affirming options to abortion. HB 2429 establishes an alternatives to abortion program providing services through Pregnancy Resource Centers (PRCs), maternity homes and adoption agencies to women facing unplanned pregnancies.

There are over 50 pregnancy resource centers (PRCs), maternity homes and adoption agencies in Kansas offering a variety of social services to women in need.

According to the KDHE's Women's Right to Know Website, some of the services PRCs offer are: pregnancy testing, pregnancy counseling, adoption referrals and services, housing assistance, education and employment counseling and referrals, sonograms, parenting classes, maternity and infant clothing and supplies, financial assistance with housing and utilities, STD/STI testing, medical care referrals, child care assistance, and post-abortion counseling. Maternity homes assist homeless women who are facing an unplanned pregnancy and provide them with a safe place to live.

PRCs exist thanks to private donations from people who support their life-affirming mission. About 10-12 non-profit organizations (including some county health departments and a program at KU Med) receive funding from the Stan Clark Pregnancy Maintenance Initiative. It is a matching grant program administered by the KDHE, and is currently funded at just under \$340,000 for FY 2023.

PRCs largely provide social services to women and their families and are up front about the fact that they do not perform or refer for abortions. While not all PRCs

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provide medical services, many do. Medical services offered by PRCs are performed by licensed medical professionals, such as doctors, nurses, and ultrasound technicians, who are bound by medical and ethical directives as a condition of their licensing.

PRCs do not profit from any decision a woman makes about her pregnancy.

A recent study published in the peer-reviewed journal *Contraception*, which describes itself as an “international reproductive health journal” shows that PRCs offer better and less expensive services than abortion facilities.<sup>1</sup> The results found that PRCs were more likely to offer same-day appointments and had shorter appointment waiting times than abortion clinics, and only a small percentage of PRCs charged for pregnancy tests and ultrasounds compared to abortion clinics where the median charge for pregnancy tests was \$24 and for ultrasounds was \$162.

As of now, HB 2429 does not include a state appropriation. Missouri currently appropriates over \$8 million a year for a similar initiative. Almost half of the abortions performed in Kansas are on residents from Missouri. By the end of the year, states like Texas<sup>2</sup> and Tennessee<sup>3</sup> are expected to appropriate \$100 Million.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2429. I respectfully ask the committee to pass the bill out favorably and will stand for questions.

Jeanne Gawdun

Director of Government Relations

Kansans for Life

<sup>1</sup>Vinekar, *Contraception*, Volume 117, January 2023, Pages 30-35

<sup>2</sup><https://www.texastribune.org/2023/01/28/texas-rally-for-life-anti-abortion/>

<sup>3</sup><https://apnews.com/article/abortion-politics-bill-lee-tennessee-7509c03331225cc884ac2878ae71ef0c>