

To: House Committee on Health and Human Services Chair Brenda Landwehr and members of the Committee

From: Tim Quiggle, Executive Director, Embrace of Wichita, Inc.

Date: March 2, 2023

Chairperson Landwehr and members of the Committee,

My name is Tim Quiggle, and I serve as the Executive Director for Embrace of Wichita, Inc. Embrace is a local 501(c)3 Non-Profit pregnancy resource center that has served those facing pregnancy decisions and/or potential STD's in the Wichita and South Central Kansas area for 38 years. I have personally served as staff to Embrace for 15 years, 8 years as the Executive Director. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony as a PROPONENT to bill HB2429.

All services at Embrace are provided at no cost with the one exception of on-going counseling w/ a licensed Marriage & Family Therapist. The cost for these services is \$20/Intake & \$10/session afterwards. This is the most affordable mental health in town. The only reason we charge for this service is that we believe with counseling, clients do better work when they have a financial level of investment.

There is simply no way to measure the emotional and/or spiritual impact Embrace provides to the community. I can report that "Word of Mouth" is our #2 source of referral, second only to search engine, and upon last assessment, Embrace received a 95% satisfaction rating from the clients. Below you will see some of the services provided at Embrace, along with an alternative provider and their current costs. It is easy to see the financial impact Embrace has upon the Wichita community.

Over the last 5 years (2018-2022) Embrace has provided 20,069 office visits to 8,752 unique individuals. In 2022, Embrace provided 4,158 office visits to 1,764 unique individuals. Of those visits, 686 were women coming in for pregnancy testing (416 of those received a limited ultrasound), and 544 clients (341 female, 202 male, 1 unknown) for STD testing and/or treatment. Those 544 clients received on average 4.12 different tests for a total of 2,920 tests.

Less than 20% of all clients reported a family income of >\$30,000 in 2022. The poverty level in 2022 for a family of 3 was \$23,030.

Pregnancy Testing & Sonograms

Embrace provided 686 pregnancy tests to clients in 2022. Of those, 544 were positive tests and 416 Limited Sonograms were provided to clients at no cost. Planned Parenthood in Wichita, Ks. Charges \$9/pregnancy test and \$150/Limited Sonogram. Using these values, Embrace provided \$6,174 worth of services through pregnancy testing and \$62,400 through Limited Sonogram services, putting a total value of these two services at \$68,574.

Every pregnancy test and sonogram provided by Embrace is FREE to all clients!

STD Testing

The average cost for an STD panel provided by an independent lab that covers the 4 primary STD's (Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Trichomoniasis, and Syphilis) is \$144/panel and does not include treatment costs. The same 4 tests provided at Planned Parenthood would cost an individual \$225, plus treatment costs. The STD tests provided by Embrace in 2022 alone, based on a conservative cost of \$150/panel holds a value of \$81,600. Through our collaborative agreements, the cost to Embrace for the Chlamydia, Gonorrhea and Trichomoniasis panels and typical treatment is \$16/client in which Embrace covers 100% of the costs for every panel and/or treatment.

Every test and/or treatment for STD services is FREE for all clients!

The CDC reports that in 2018 **CHLAMYDIA, GONORRHEA, and SYPHILIS** combined accounted for **\$1.1 billion** in direct medical costs. *Care for young people (ages 15-24) accounted for about 60% of these costs.* Care for women represented nearly **75%** of all STI-related medical costs (not including HIV care). In 2022, 51.83% of STD clients seen at Embrace were <25 years of age.

Pregnancy Maintenance Program

Through the assistance of the State funded Stan Clark Pregnancy Maintenance Initiative, Embrace can employ a Licensed Social Worker dedicated to helping women identify obstacles that are currently making life unmanageable (non-medically related) and resources/referrals to assist them in overcoming these barriers. From July -December, the Resource Manager has assisted 97 women (and their families) leading to less felt stress, better pregnancy outcomes and better family environments in the Wichita and South-Central Kansas vicinity.

All case management and referrals provided by Embrace are FREE to all clients!

Parental Education

237 clients participated in group parenting courses in 2022 at Embrace. Material support is used to incentive and encourage participation in parenting and/or healthy relationship courses at Embrace. These incentives consist of diapers/wipes, formula and age/sex/seasonally appropriate infant clothing are provided to those clients that successfully attend all 6 sessions of a course. Last year, \$110,416.51 worth of material incentives were provided to Embrace clients at no cost!

All parenting classes provided by Embrace are FREE to all clients!

Counseling

Pregnancy decisions and/or a potential STD diagnosis carries with it an emotional strain that can challenge even the most solid individual. To help clients process their emotions, Embrace offers counseling from a Licensed Clinical Marriage & Family Therapist (LCMFT). In 2022 Embrace provided 167 sessions to 58 individuals. Based on a \$100/session value (extremely conservative) this represents a \$16,700 service provided to the community. Clients pay \$20/Intake and \$10/session afterwards.

Funding

There are many other services (Pregnancy Maintenance Initiative services, Infant Photo Shoots and more) that are not listed here but only drive the value of a pregnancy resource center like Embrace up to a community. Adding all of the values listed brings a total of \$277,290 annually in services provided to the community at no cost.

Expenses to Embrace (not including in kind or depreciation) in 2022 were \$780,237.78.

Individual Donors: 65% (866 Unique Donors)

Local Churches: 15% (54 Churches)

Local Business: 10% (32 Businesses & Foundations Combined)

Foundations/Company Match: 10%

Kansas State Grant (PMI): 5% (1 KS State Grant)

Conclusion

Embrace represents a massive value to the community through their financial, material and services provided with little to no financial draw from the State. The donors willingly invest in Embrace because they simply believe it is the right thing to do and want the best for people experiencing pregnancy decisions and/or untreated STD's in the Wichita/South Central Kansas vicinity. Since Embrace does not financially benefit from a woman's pregnancy decision, it truly represents a safe and non-judgmental place women and men can hear all of the options available and receive excellent medical care in their pregnancy decisions and sexual health crisis.

The passage of HB 2429 would increase the revenue needed to continue and even expand these same services in multiple locations. By increasing the number of locations, Embrace will be able to increase the capacity of people served, benefiting both the clients and saving the community funds that can be used for other services.

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