

Written Testimony in Support of HB 2313
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On behalf of the Abortion Survivors Network (ASN), the more than 640 abortion survivors who have connected with us, and the tens of thousands of abortion survivors we know exist, we are proud to support HB 2313, a bill that would protect infants born alive after a failed abortion.

This legislation has earned our enthusiastic support as it contains every element of a strong born-alive bill. Under HB 2313, born-alive infants would be guaranteed the same healthcare and medical protection as any other infant, and be transported to a hospital after their birth. Furthermore, these requirements would be enforced with the inclusion of legal penalties specified in the bill. A clear and accurate definition of a born alive infant is provided.

In an additional and vital step forward, HB 2313 would make annual reporting on the number, gestational age, and condition of infants born alive a requirement. This means that data forming a more accurate picture of the frequency and influence of failed abortion, which is currently greatly lacking across the US, will be collected. Ultimately, this legislation aligns with the common sense of Kansans and Americans across the country.

As the only organization in the world supporting abortion survivors and their families, we have come into contact with hundreds of individuals who were born during or following a failed abortion. While records of abortion survivors in the United States are either missing or woefully incomplete, ASN has been able to estimate, by extrapolating from Canadian rates, the actual number and frequency of born-alive abortions in the United States.

Our research indicates that 0.21% of abortions result in a live birth. This means that for every 1,000 abortions, approximately two infants survive. Based on the large number of abortions performed nationwide, an average of 1,734 failed abortions result in a live birth every year. This occurrence is not as rare as many try to claim. Each survivor is a testimony not only of the occurrence of failed abortions but of the value of every born-alive infant.

The Kansas Born-Alive Infants Protection Act will save countless lives—lives like mine. In 1977, my birth mother had a saline infusion abortion forced upon her by my grandmother. This procedure involved injecting a toxic salt solution into the amniotic fluid meant to protect my body to scald and poison me to death. Despite all expectations, I was born alive.

Even after being miraculously born alive, I was initially left to die outside the womb. However, I was rescued by a nurse who disobeyed orders to lay me aside and rushed me to the NICU. My medical records note that an abortion was performed, but failed. At ASN, stories like mine are

not so rare. Many abortion survivors have been left uncared for even after their initial survival. Whether an infant receives lifesaving care should not depend on who is working that day.

ASN is committed to serving and protecting the survivors of abortion at any age. Let us work together to ensure that infants are protected in a common-sense way. As the first and most basic right, life should never be denied, no matter how young an individual is or how unique the circumstances of their birth. Survivors deserve the same care and treatment as everyone else. We are proud to support this legislation with Representative Sanders and his colleagues.