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**Oral PROPONENT testimony for HB 2635. AN ACT concerning healthcare; enacting the pregnancy center autonomy and rights of expression act; providing statutory protection for private, nonprofit pregnancy centers and medical pregnancy centers to provide life-affirming care, support and material resources; creating a private cause of action for violations of the act; creating a right of intervention in legal proceedings challenging the act.**

Date: February 10, 2026

To: Chair Representative Kessler and members of the Kansas Committee on Federal and State Affairs

From: Lucrecia Nold, Kansas Catholic Conference

Dear Chair Kessler and committee members,

My name is Lucrecia Nold, and I serve as the Policy Specialist for the Kansas Catholic Conference, representing the Catholic Bishops of Kansas. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony as a PROPONENT to HB 2635.

According to the late Pope Benedict XVI, “States are called to enact policies promoting the centrality and the integrity of the family.”<sup>1</sup> This is further acknowledged in paragraph 2209 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which reads “The family must be helped and defended by appropriate social measures. Where families cannot fulfill their responsibilities, other social bodies have the duty of helping them and of supporting the institution of the family. Following the principle of subsidiarity, larger communities should take care not to usurp the family’s prerogatives or interfere in its life.”

Pregnancy Resource Centers (PRC) are designed specifically to provide care and support to the family. This is a central reason that the Catholic Church supports the protection of these centers. They should be allowed to fully assist families without fear of their freedom of speech or religion being condemned or stripped away.

In a recent statement, Pope Leo XIV, reminded the world of the importance of protecting every unborn child. This included effective support from communities and individuals for women to welcome life. The exact kind of support PRCs provide.

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<sup>1</sup> [Caritas in Veritate by Pope Benedict XVI | CAPP-USA](#)

In addition to support for women facing difficult pregnancies, PRC's provide support to the fathers.

The comprehensive list of services provided by PRC's can include a pregnancy test, sonogram, parenting classes, financial classes, diapers, formula, clothing, counseling, referral to community healthcare, assistance in signing up for Medicaid, SNAP and more. All is provided to the mother FREE OF CHARGE.

The most recent 2026 Knights of Columbus Marist Poll showed that 84% of Americans support pregnancy resource centers.<sup>2</sup> Not only do PRC's offer a multitude of services free of charge, but also:

- Provide support to women regardless of her choice to parent, adopt, or abort.
- Affirm the women's dignity.
- Prioritize the women's physical and emotional health, along with the babies and the family as a whole.

With such great service, hospitality, wholesome and well-rounded care, it's no surprise that majority of Americans support the work of PRCs.

However, the unfortunate truth is there are some certain individuals and groups that work to hinder the life-affirming work of PRCs. This can happen in a variety of ways; through censorship, discrimination, and specific demands that directly violate the moral and religious beliefs of the PRC. Several states have already created anti-pregnancy center laws. While many others have introduced legislation to do so.

PRC's in Kansas need protection. We must be proactive in protecting the First Amendment rights of pregnancy resource centers; protecting them and the life-affirming work and care they provide. That is the intent and design of HB 2635--to protect PRCs and allow them to continue providing their excellent care without the fear of state and local government censorship and discrimination, ensuring the fullest care to women, babies, and families.

The Catholic Church stands in support of life and those who help families care for life. We stand in favor of HB 2635 and ask that this committee do the same.

Thank you,

Lucrecia Nold

Kansas Catholic Conference

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.kofc.org/resources/news/press-releases/polls/marist-poll-a-consistent-consensus-supports-legal-limits-on-abortion22/>