

## Written Testimony in Support of HB 2635

To: Chair Representative Kessler and Members of the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

From: Bridgit Smith, CEO, Insight Women's Center, Lawrence, Kansas

Position: Proponent of HB 2635

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Dear Chair Representative Kessler and members of the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2635, the Pregnancy Center Autonomy and Rights of Expression Act.

As the CEO of Insight Women's Center, a pregnancy care center, and Selah Home, a residential maternity program for single pregnant women and their babies, I have the privilege of overseeing care for women at some of the most vulnerable moments of their lives. Our team provides pregnancy verifications, early pregnancy ultrasounds to confirm viability and how far along a woman is, education, support, and compassionate care to women and families facing unplanned pregnancies.

Before I was called into this work, my own family walked through an unplanned pregnancy with our nineteen-year-old daughter. At that time, I didn't know what a pregnancy care center was or the services they provided. The small rural community we lived in at the time did not offer this type of support. Our daughter, along with my husband and me, navigated fear, confusion, and complex emotions largely on our own. While being pressured by many, including a medical professional, to choose abortion. I saw our daughter stand firm and make the choice she felt was best for her and her baby.

Because of that experience, I carry a unique perspective. I understand how critical it is for a woman to have a safe place where she can slow down, speak honestly, and carefully sort through the complexity of her emotions with accurate information and compassionate support before making a decision that will impact the rest of her life.

Many women who come to us are not firmly set on abortion but feel cornered into believing it is their only path forward. Often, they are navigating fear, abandonment, isolation, and uncertainty. What they need most is a steady, pressure-free environment where they can ask real questions, receive clear information, and process the tornado of emotions they are carrying before deciding what to do next.

Pregnancy centers exist to provide exactly that. A safe space. A sacred pause. Truth, so a woman can choose well.

HB 2635 is important because it ensures centers like ours can continue to offer life-affirming care, support, and resources without being compelled to speak, advertise, or refer in ways that conflict with our mission. While Kansas, thankfully, has not faced the government overreach seen in other States, this bill provides proactive protections so pregnancy centers can continue serving women and families according to their purpose.

Our clients often find us through a simple internet search during of the most vulnerable moments of their lives. They come needing compassion, truth, and practical help, but also a place where they feel safe enough to share their deepest feelings, fears, and uncertainties without judgment or pressure. This bill safeguards our ability to provide that care in a way that aligns fully with who we are and why we exist.

Therefore, I respectfully ask you to support HB 2635 and the protections it offers to pregnancy centers throughout Kansas. So, pregnancy care centers like ours can continue serving women and families with clarity of mission, compassion in care, and freedom to operate according to our mission and purpose.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Bridgit Smith

CEO

Insight Women's Center