



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

This testimony is submitted in relation to bill HB 2635. My name is Ruth Martinez Tisdale. I serve as Executive Director at Two Lines Pregnancy Clinic in Overland Park, Kansas. Thank you for your service. I am writing in support of this bill, HB 2635.

As someone who has been working in a pregnancy center for almost 21 years, it has been my pleasure to witness the lives of women, men, and children changed when they come through our doors. Many of those who we serve find themselves in an unexpected pregnancy, and for them this is a crisis. Pregnancy is a beautiful privilege for women yet many of those we serve are thinking that their unexpected pregnancy is a problem and that their lives are ruined because of it. Many of these women have been led to believe that they only have one option and that option is to abort. However, that's where we come in, our role is to encourage those we meet to realize that with the right help and support, they are strong enough to overcome any crisis or unexpected event they may face including this pregnancy.

Two Lines Pregnancy Clinic was birthed back in 1983 because regular people in Overland Park cared enough for women facing unexpected pregnancy and they wanted to provide an alternative to abortion. What started with pregnancy tests and crisis intervention peer counseling, has grown into a medical facility that offers a variety of programs and services at no cost. We have never charged anyone for any of our services because of the generosity of people



like you, people in our community who care enough for women, men, and children and want to make a positive impact in their lives.

Last year alone we served over 1,000 individuals and provided over \$200,000 worth of practical tangible assistance. Our licensed social workers were able to dig deep into the difficulties and challenges of many of these ladies so that we could help them in their time of need. Things like rent, medical bills, utility bills, transportation, food, car repairs, and more were covered to alleviate many of the stressors that may lead them to abortion. Our nurses and sonographers performed over 885 sonograms to educate women on the health of their pregnancy. Forty-two of these sonograms revealed sets of twins! Our medical team also provided STI/STD testing to 552 individuals including testing for syphilis which has been increasing in the last several years and is extremely dangerous. We have a partnership with the health department to send positive syphilis test patients to them for treatment.

We also care for women who have experienced abortion, because we really do care for all women. Our post abortion assessment service gives women a chance to meet with one of our nurses and social workers 6 weeks post- abortion to discuss her physical and emotional help. If a patient demonstrates concerns beyond our scope of services, we can refer to our Medical Director or professional counseling for further care. Again, all these services plus parenting education for both mom and dad during pregnancy and for up to two years once baby is born, at no charge. Our desire is for women, men, and children, even the pre-born to thrive.



It is crucial that pregnancy clinics across Kansas continue to provide our full menu of services and care without any fear of state or local government restrictions or discrimination. What we offer is making our communities better and giving women the tools and support they need to be the mothers we all dream of becoming. Every woman deserves care, love, hope, practical and emotional support at a critical moment in their lives. Pregnancy Clinics have been a lifeboat for women for over 50 years now, and we would like to continue to give that support without fear of government harassment. We want to build stronger families for a stronger Kansas, and pregnancy clinics are a vital part of that.

And that's why I support bill HB 2635.

Thank you for your time,

Ruth Martinez Tisdale

Executive Director

Two Lines Pregnancy Clinic