



NATIVITY HOUSE KC

Changing One Life While Saving Another

February 9, 2026

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

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of House Bill 2635, The Pregnancy Center Autonomy and Rights of Expression Act. My name is Kelly Werkowitch and I am the Development Director of Nativity House KC, Inc. and The Pregnancy Resource Center of Atchison.

Nativity House KC is a Non-Profit 501(C) 3 maternity home. We serve our community by providing no cost housing, services, and programs for homeless pregnant adult women. We operate a residential maternity shelter in Wyandotte County, Kansas as an alternative to abortion that changes one life while saving another. At Nativity House we strive to nurture the whole women; mind, body, spirit and soul. Physical health, mental health, and spiritual health are all equally important.

Our mission is to provide help, hope, healing, shelter, and services for homeless pregnant mothers and their child(ren) in a home-like environment. Nativity House provides the following support and services in our residential program and our community-based programs:

- Safe and secure housing
- Case management
- Mental health counseling, facilitation, and Trauma Informed Care support
- Educational and vocational guidance
- Nutritional meals and education
- Clothing and personal supplies
- Financial education
- Prenatal and postnatal education and care
- Newborn, infant and early childcare classes
- Positive role models
- Transportation
- Recreational activities
- Self-care
- Aftercare and transition resources
- Spiritual development

Care and support continue through pregnancy and for the first year of the child's life to prepare both the mother and the child for a brighter future. Once a mother has completed our program, she can transition into independent living with the education, confidence, skills and support necessary to end this battle of homelessness. Our goal is that every mother and child is given the opportunity to heal, grow and succeed. We support the mothers' desires to graduate from this program with the values, insights, and tools to not just survive, but thrive.

The Pregnancy Resource Center of Atchison is a Non-Profit 501(C) 3 center serving the Atchison and surrounding areas in Kansas. Their mission is to offer free and confidential assistance to pregnant women and families with young children. The center aims to provide a safe, nurturing environment for individuals facing unplanned pregnancies, encouraging them to choose life. Changing families one life at a time.

The Pregnancy Resource Center of Atchison provides the following support and services:

- Diapers & Baby Supplies
- Children's & Maternity Clothes
- Furniture
- Transportation



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- Short-Term Counseling
- Educational Classes
- Community Referrals
- Case Management

Resources, education, and community support typically continue for one year. The center often works with local churches and community partners to offer comprehensive care.

In the almost 9 years that I have been involved with Nativity House and recently with the Pregnancy Resource Center, I have had the opportunity to serve many incredibly strong, intelligent, and resilient young women. While their stories of abuse, strife and suffering are disturbing, their stories of success are even more inspiring.

In 2017 I met KG. KG had come to Nativity House while fleeing an abusive home life. When she found out she was pregnant, she realized that she could not and would not raise her child in her current situation with her drug addicted mother. She was homeless, scared and alone. KG was also determined to create a better life for herself and her daughter. Her daughter was born very prematurely, and KG herself suffered a terrible reaction to her epidural. She named her beautiful daughter Trinity, and she was truly a miracle! We were able to support KG and Trinity in a great time of need. KG moved into independent living and worked for Nativity House as an administrative assistant to gain employment experience. She would also meet with prospective clients/mothers to give advice and answer questions. She was a beautiful voice of calm, support and comfort for pregnant homeless women who were feeling the familiar fear and helplessness that she had experienced. I remember her candid and compassionate advice “I may not have wanted to do some of the things (requirements), but I did them anyway because I knew where I wanted to be!” KG is now living independently and thriving with her husband and daughter. Our miracle baby Trinity is a beautiful and healthy 8-year-old that we still hold dear in our hearts. Trinity has been blessed with twin sisters that fill their home with laughter and joy.

Our agencies receive hundreds of calls from women with traumatic stories just like KG’s. The women and children we serve come to us vulnerable and frightened. They come to us not just seeking shelter, but also seeking the protection, refuge, and purpose of our life-affirming mission.

HB 2635 is vital to preserving the freedom of centers like ours to offer life-affirming care, support, and resources without being forced to compromise our mission. While Kansas has been spared the government overreach occurring in other states, this bill establishes proactive protections to ensure pregnancy centers like ours can continue serving women and families with integrity. HB 2635 is vital to ensuring that women, babies, and families can continue to have access to the essential support, resources and education that maternity homes and pregnancy resource centers provide.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to support HB 2635 and the important protections it provides to pregnancy centers throughout Kansas, ensuring they can continue serving women and families in accordance with their life-affirming mission.

If you have any further questions, please contact me at (913)219-0011 or kellyw@nativityhousekc.org.

Thank you,

Kelly Werkowitch

Development Director

Nativity House KC

Pregnancy Resource Center of Atchison