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House Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Rep. Tom Kessler, Chair

Opponent Testimony, Verbal, In Person

HB2635–Enacting the pregnancy center autonomy and rights of expression act

Chair Kessler and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent testimony on HB2635.

Mainstream was founded over 30 years ago by faith and community leaders who warned about the intrusion of narrow, extremist religious views into our government and public institutions. In the following decades, Mainstream members have fought to protect our religious freedoms and maintain strong church-state separation because Kansans value their freedom to live as they see fit without the overreach of government or religion into their personal lives.

Mainstream OPPOSES HB2635 as yet another attempt by the supermajority of this legislature to undermine a person’s right to safely access the complete range of reproductive health care available to them in the state of Kansas. This bill prohibits any level of government, including state agencies, counties, and cities, from regulating pregnancy centers. Pregnancy centers as defined by SB2635 are already privileged by the state through annual funding and lack of oversight and accountability, resulting in dangerous and misleading health conditions.¹

The facilities that would benefit from this bill are often not legitimate healthcare centers, and instead are unregulated, often faith based, centers with numerous cited unethical practices². Instead of providing the medical care for pregnant women in need of services, they proselytize,

¹ *Crisis Pregnancy Centers in the U.S.: Lack of Adherence to Medical and Ethical Practice Standards* Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine and the North American Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology, *Journal of Adolescent Health*, Volume 65, Issue 6, 821 - 824, [https://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X\(19\)30413-6/fulltext](https://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X(19)30413-6/fulltext)

² *The Alliance CPC Study: Full Findings & Study Methods*. The Alliance. (n.d.). https://alliancestateadvocates.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/107/Alliance_CPC_Report_FullFindings11-1.pdf

coerce, and scare people to carry pregnancies to term and share unproven medical advice regarding disinformation like abortion reversal³.

In 2022, Kansas voters told their legislators how they wanted the government to behave with regards to reproductive healthcare. Kansans voted overwhelmingly to protect reproductive rights from interference by the state. We ask this body to not further privilege unethical, anti-abortion clinics with coercive tactics and disinformation that imposes one religious ideology onto pregnant Kansans seeking support and resources.

Thank you,

Laurel Burchfield
Mainstream Coalition

³ *Medication abortion reversal is not supported by science.* American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. (n.d.). <https://www.acog.org/advocacy/facts-are-important/medication-abortion-reversal-is-not-supported-by-science>