

9-February-2026

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

I'm writing to provide testimony in support of HB 2635. My name is Laurel Richardson. I am a Registered Nurse, a Certified Nurse Educator, and the Executive Director of JC Pregnancy Center in Junction City, ([director@jcpclife.com](mailto:director@jcpclife.com)). Before taking this position I taught Nursing at Salina Area Technical College for 6 years, and before that I worked overseas in faith community health missions work for 30 years.

JC Pregnancy Center is a pro-abundant life, medical, pregnancy resource center established to enable local people to provide compassion, hope, and help to people coping with pregnancy decisions. Consistent with our center's Statement of Faith, as well as our membership with CareNet and with the National Institute of Family and Life Advocates, we do not refer clients for abortions.

Rather, every week our Registered Nurses provide free and confidential pregnancy tests and limited diagnostic obstetric ultrasounds. Others on our staff have been trained by nationally-recognized organizations to provide peer counselling, new fatherhood support, and post-abortion support. We facilitate a popular parenting education curriculum. We collaborate with the Geary County Ministerial Association, and with at least three Kansas-recognized adoption agencies. Likewise, we refer our clients to at least three different medical practices for pre-natal or other appropriate care. We keep our center supplied with accurate literature and links to provide the kind of information women and couples may need to make careful decisions about their situations. Moreover, we are prepared to refer clients to local emergency departments due to risk

of ectopic pregnancy, and to contact Kansas Dept. for Children & Families for cases involving minors.

I can illustrate with a permitted story about Kay and Tony. They had become sweethearts in high school. As a young adult couple, when it appeared that Kay was pregnant, they felt uncertain even about how to get a pregnancy test, much less how to deal with a pregnancy and a child. Tony was out of work, and Kay's job soon ended also. Kay's grandmother brought her to our center.

A nurse and an advocate interviewed Kay to learn about her concerns. Our center's Medical Director is an Obstetrician & Gynecologist. According to his standing orders and our center's policies and procedures, Kay was offered a pregnancy test. When there was a positive test result, the nurse offered ultrasound. Medical indications included,

- Scanning for intrauterine location of the pregnancy,
- Checking for fetal cardiac activity, and
- Measuring for gestational age.

Kay and Tony saw the images of their child, and received the results of the Doctor's sonogram report. According to their interest they received educational literature about pregnancy, referral information about prenatal care, and contact details for community resources. In subsequent visits to the center, they collected packets of diapers, wipes, and baby items. When the new parents later brought their infant to visit the center, the couple expressed thanks for support and care they'd received. Tony told us, "You guys set us up for success!"

While JC Pregnancy Center indeed provides professional care according to a proven medical model of healthcare, we also demonstrate the effectiveness of local community action. Local people started our center. For the greater Junction City / Fort Riley area of Kansas they best understood the needs, as well as the local strengths and assets to leverage for

vulnerable people. For these two reasons - - professional level of care, and effective local community action - - I urge our Kansas government to honor and protect both the work and the local supports of our state's pregnancy care centers by supporting HB 2635 at this time. We need this bill to ensure that government does not target our centers nor require overbearing rules or regulations such as asking for a list of our supporters and their donation amounts.

Thank you for considering this testimony. Further statistical evidence of the important work of pregnancy centers can be found at,

Charlotte Lozier Institute Report Team. (2024). *Pregnancy centers offer hope for a new generation*. Charlotte Lozier Institute, CareNet, Heartbeat International, National Institute of Family & Life Advocates, & Focus on the Family  
<https://lozierinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Pregnancy-Center-Report-Dec-2024-Interactive.pdf>

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