



# AMERICAN ATHEISTS

February 10, 2026

The Honorable Rep. Tom Kessler  
Chair, House Federal and State Affairs Committee  
300 SW 10th Avenue  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

**Re: OPPOSE HB 2635, Eliminating Oversight on Unregulated Pregnancy Centers**

Dear Chairperson Kessler and Members of the House Federal and State Affairs Committee:

American Atheists, on behalf of its constituents in Kansas, writes in opposition to HB 2635, a controversial bill that would effectively shield anti-abortion, predominantly religious, counseling centers from accountability. Unregulated pregnancy centers use deceptive marketing practices to target and lure pregnant women to their facilities by posing as medical centers. Individuals and families need – and deserve – timely, unbiased, and medically accurate information about the full range of reproductive options available so they can make educated choices about their health and well-being. Too often, organizations driven by religious agendas have unscrupulously sought to divert health care consumers away from legitimate, state-licensed medical providers. By attempting to prevent abortion through shame, deception, and manipulation, these centers endanger the health and safety of women. We strongly urge you to protect families in Kansas by rejecting this dangerous legislation.

American Atheists is a national civil rights organization that works to achieve religious equality for all Americans by protecting what Thomas Jefferson called the “wall of separation” between government and religion created by the First Amendment. We strive to create an environment where atheists are accepted as members of our nation’s communities and where bigotry against our community is seen as abhorrent and unacceptable. We promote understanding of atheists through education, outreach, and community-building, and work to end the stigma associated with being an atheist in America. American Atheists objects to efforts

**AMERICAN ATHEISTS**

225 Cristiani Street • Cranford, NJ 07016-3214  
(908) 276-7300 • [www.atheists.org](http://www.atheists.org)

that privilege the religious beliefs of a few over medical best practices and the health, safety, and well-being of all Americans.

In Kansas and other states, unregulated and predominantly religious pregnancy centers have sought to divert consumers away from full-service, science-driven clinics. These organizations rely on trickery and deception to prey upon people experiencing an unexpected pregnancy.<sup>1</sup> They present themselves to the public as neutral, unbiased health care providers to attract people desperate for assistance by using signage similar to full-service centers, offering free pregnancy and STI testing, and listing themselves alongside abortion providers in online directories and searches. However, the primary purpose of unregulated pregnancy centers is to discourage women from accessing abortion health care by disseminating misleading or false medical information and delaying women from receiving care as long as possible. These “delay and distract” tactics can lead to devastating consequences for both maternal and neonatal health.<sup>2</sup>

HB 2635 erroneously claims that unregulated, anti-abortion pregnancy centers are merely an alternative to full-service pregnancy centers. Studies have routinely found that pregnancy centers, like those referenced in HB 2635, do not provide medically accurate information and “pose a substantial risk to women by failing to adhere to medical and ethical practice standards.”<sup>3</sup> Centers are usually staffed by volunteers who lack proper medical training and prioritize pushing a religious agenda over providing client-centered, evidence-based care.<sup>4</sup> They supply medically inaccurate information about abortions, contraception, fetal development, and sexual health, including promoting outlandish and unproven “abortion reversal” services. Because they pretend to be the equivalent to licensed medical practices, women are deceived into believing that they are receiving

---

<sup>1</sup> Rosen, Joanne D. 2012. “The Public Health Risks of Crisis Pregnancy Centers” *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, Vol. 44, Issue 3, <https://doi.org/10.1363/4420112>.

<sup>2</sup> Montoya MN, Judge-Golden C, Swartz JJ. “The Problems with Crisis Pregnancy Centers: Reviewing the Literature and Identifying New Directions for Future Research”. *Int J Womens Health*. 2022 Jun 8;14:757-763. doi: 10.2147/IJWH.S288861. PMID: 35706995; PMCID: PMC9189146.

<sup>3</sup> See Polcyn C, Swiezy S, Genn L, Wickramage P, Sidiqqi N, Johnson C, Nair P, Bernard C, Miller V. “Truth and Transparency in Crisis Pregnancy Centers.” *Women's Health Rep* (New Rochelle). 2020 Jul 27;1(1):224-226. doi: 10.1089/whr.2020.0057. PMID: 33786483; PMCID: PMC7784822.

<sup>4</sup> “Crisis Pregnancy Centers in the U.S.: Lack of Adherence to Medical and Ethical Practice Standards” *Journal of Adolescent Health*, Volume 65, Issue 6, 821 - 824.

adequate care and forego seeking medically-accurate care.<sup>5</sup> This can result in a failure to identify serious complications, an increased risk of medical complications, additional health care costs if a delay results in a woman needing a more advanced abortion procedure, or loss of a wanted pregnancy.

HB 2635 will harm women and families throughout Kansas by sanctioning the deceptive tactics of unregulated pregnancy centers and their promulgation of religiously motivated and medically inaccurate information. By wrongfully and recklessly placing unregulated advocacy centers on the same level as licensed medical providers, this legislation will deprive Kansans of their right to make informed decisions about their health. We urge you to oppose HB 2635.

Should you have any questions regarding American Atheists' opposition to HB 2635, please contact me at [vanderson@atheists.org](mailto:vanderson@atheists.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Victoria Anderson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Victoria Anderson  
State Policy Specialist  
American Atheists

---

<sup>5</sup> Amy G. Bryant, MD, MSCR and Jonas J. Swartz, MD, MPH “Why Crisis Pregnancy Centers are Legal but Unethical” *AMA J Ethics*. 2018;20(3):269-277. doi: 10.1001/journalofethics.2018.20.3.pfor1-1803.