



## Kansas Family Voice Testimony in Support of H.B. 2307

House Health

Brittany Jones

February 12, 2025

Chairman Carpenter, and members of the Committee, my name is Brittany Jones. I am an attorney and the Director of Policy and Engagement for Kansas Family Voice. Kansas Family Voice cares deeply about ensuring our laws protect babies in the womb and ensuring that families facing difficult pregnancies receive the support they need throughout their pregnancy. Thank you for the opportunity to share with you our reasons for supporting H.B. 2307.

In some countries around the world, children born with down syndrome are disappearing entirely often because parents feel they lack support to raise a child with disabilities. Even in the U.S. it is estimated that two-thirds of children who receive a prenatal diagnosis of down syndrome are not born. This is a huge loss for our nation and our state.

Several years ago, Kansas sought to create a program to help families gain access to resources once their child receives either a prenatal or postnatal diagnosis of down syndrome or other disability. Unfortunately, this program has never been actualized in Kansas.

We are not the only state who has tried to do something like this. Massachusetts has had a program for a number of years to support families with children with disabilities. Their law requires that any person who provides prenatal care, postnatal care, or genetic counseling to parents with an unborn child diagnosed with Down syndrome must provide up-to-date information about the condition.<sup>1</sup> Mandated information includes information about physical, developmental, educational, and psychosocial outcomes; life expectancy; intellectual and functional development; treatment options; and information on educational and support groups. The state of Washington also has a similar program with similar requirements for up to date information.<sup>2</sup>

H.B. 2307 will ensure that this program actually is enacted by an organization that has devoted itself to caring for families who are raising these amazing, unique children in our state. These children and families should be valued and assisted by our state. These families need our support now more than ever. For these reasons, I ask that you pass this simple and noncontroversial bill out favorably!

Thank you!

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<sup>1</sup> Mass. Code Section 70H.

<sup>2</sup> RCW 43.70.738