



Proponent Testimony on House Bill 2809

House Federal and State Affairs Committee | March 12, 2024

Chairman Carpenter and Members of the committee,

I am Jeanne Gawdun, Director of Government Relations with Kansasans for Life. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2809, Every Mom Matters Act (EMMA).

KFL's statewide membership strongly supports legislative efforts to enact life-affirming policies that show true compassion and care for pregnant women in difficult circumstances.

The EMMA program gives pregnant women and families looking to adopt easier access to a wide variety of support services and resources that promote healthy pregnancies and childbirth, provide information on adoption and promote family and child development.

Some of the support services available to program participants are medically accurate pregnancy-related information, assistance in obtaining medical coverage including obstetric care, behavioral and mental health care, as well as substance abuse treatment, information on the adoption process in Kansas, assistance in obtaining job training or employment, and educational information on parenting skills and developing healthy relationships.

We know that one of the challenges of connecting pregnant women and families to the support services they need is lack of knowledge of available resources. The EMMA hotline is a valuable tool to help increase awareness and will expedite the process of bringing services to those in need.

Thank you for your consideration and I ask that the committee pass HB 2809 out favorably.

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