



February 16, 2024

Opponent Written and Oral Testimony: HB 2789  
Health and Human Services Committee

Chairwoman Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present opponent testimony on HB 2653. Trust Women Foundation is a health care provider in Kansas and Oklahoma with a mission to provide and protect access to abortion care for our communities. We offer comprehensive reproductive health care, as well as gender-affirming care, HIV treatment, Hep-C testing and treatment and other sexual health services.

We strongly oppose House Bill 2789, an act creating both the “pregnancy compassion program”, and the anti-abortion marketing slush fund, the “pregnancy compassion awareness program.” This bill will act as a massive subsidy to unregulated anti-abortion centers, putting the resources of Kansas taxpayers behind organizations that masquerade as healthcare providers, to the detriment of patients and our communities.

Legitimate healthcare providers offer a full range of services and resources to their patients. In addition to the usual exclusion of abortion providers, HB 2789 prohibits resources from going to organizations that merely “refer for abortions”. Many family practice doctors, OB-GYNs and other medical professionals correctly view abortions as essential health care. We are very concerned that this bill, through its exclusion of reproductive healthcare clinics that provide abortions—as well as anyone who refers to abortion providers—intends to delegitimize comprehensive reproductive healthcare.

By excluding abortion providers and other medical professionals from this program, supporters of this legislation are asking the government to give preferential treatment to crisis pregnancy centers and their affiliated institutions and marketing firms with little, if any, accountability to taxpayers. These contracted vendors would decide which healthcare providers receive the state's endorsement based on their aversion to abortions, not medicine.

If supporters of this bill were sincere about their desire to help struggling families, they could write a similar bill that strengthens already existing state institutions and programs meant to help Kansans; they could reach out to healthcare providers, including abortion providers, to



learn what we and our patients experience every day; they could listen to Kansans who have said over and over and over again that they want strong social support programs from the state *and* robust access to abortions. To our knowledge, they have not done any of these things.

We are honestly surprised that supporters of this bill wouldn't want to take this different path. During the recent hearing on HB 2749, Chairwoman Landwehr asked whether or not a woman seeking an abortion should know all of her options. We wholeheartedly agree: she should. That's why we stand in firm opposition to HB 2789, a bill that seeks to establish the pregnancy compassion program, a program where only most of the important information a pregnant person might need is provided.

Respectfully submitted,

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