



February 2nd, 2023

Testimony to House Committee on Taxation

Chair, Representative Adam Smith

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Hearing: Thursday, February 2nd, 2023, 03:30 PM Room 346-S

Opposed [HOUSE BILL No. 2135 AN ACT concerning taxation; relating to income, privilege and premium tax credits; establishing a tax credit for contributions to eligible charitable organizations operating pregnancy centers or residential maternity facilities.](#)

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Bergkamp, and Members of the Committee:

Please accept this written testimony on behalf of Kansas Birth Justice Society regarding House Bill 2135 and the proposed tax credit for contributions to crisis pregnancy centers.

Kansas Birth Justice Society is a nonprofit organization focused on eliminating the well-documented and widespread racial health inequities experienced by Kansas parents and infants. To this end, we served over 2,000 parents and infants with support services at our Wichita-based center in 2022.

The vast majority of the families we served in 2022 reported that they faced nearly insurmountable barriers to accessing accurate and *medically-sound information* about their reproductive health. This lack of access to unbiased sexual and reproductive health information perpetuates societal conditions in which individuals will continue to struggle with making informed decisions about when, if, and how to grow their families.

What is *really* needed in Kansas and elsewhere is widespread access to truly accurate sexual health information, akin to what is offered in our Wichita center. When this sort of information is available without religious or personal bias attached, families are empowered to make decisions that honor their individual circumstances and long-term life goals, and enable them to live to their fullest potential. In contrast, the 26+ crisis pregnancy centers currently operating in Kansas do not and cannot offer this sort of vital unbiased sexual health information due to their intrinsic nature as institutions founded on principles of religious dogma. In offering biased and inaccurate information rather than medically-sound information, while masquerading as maternal healthcare centers, the crisis pregnancy centers are inflicting enormous harm on those individuals in our society who have the least access to crucial information to make responsible and well-informed sexual health decisions. HB2135 would create special tax incentives to support the existence of these crisis pregnancy centers, and in turn will harm Kansas families. For this reason, we strongly oppose this legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sapphire Garcia-Lies

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Executive Director

Kansas Birth Justice Society

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