



Testimony in Support of SB 147

Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee

March 1, 2023

Chairwoman Tyson and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 147. My name is Jeanne Gawdun and I am the Director of Government Relations with Kansans for Life (KFL).

For adoptive parents, birth parents and children waiting to be loved, the journey can be long and difficult. There are many barriers in the process and so many of them go beyond laws and legislation. In its truest form, adoption is an issue of the heart.

While the sheer cost of an adoption is not the only barrier for the successful connection of families, it is certainly a major factor. According to *US News & World Report*, an adoption through a private agency can cost anywhere from \$30,000 to \$60,000 while an independent adoption can cost \$25,000 to \$45,000.¹ For many, this is simply unaffordable.

Kansans for Life and our statewide membership stand in support of SB 147 as we have long worked to promote adoption as one of the alternatives to abortion. As the legislature evaluates tax policy over the course of the session, we hope that adoption incentives are a part of the continued discussion.

I thank the committee again for allowing me to submit testimony and would be happy to provide additional information at the committee's request.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jeanne Gawdun
Director of Government Relations
Kansans for Life

¹ Beth Braverman, *The Cost of Adoption – and Strategies to Pay for It* (*US News & World Report* (8/11/2022))

Elevate life.