



**Written PROPONENT testimony for HB 2313, AN ACT concerning health and healthcare; creating the born-alive infants protection act; providing legal protections for infants born alive; requiring certain standards of care by healthcare providers for infants who are born alive; providing criminal penalties and civil liability for violations of the act; amending K.S.A. 65-445 and repealing the existing section.**

To: Madam Chair Representative Landwehr and Committee Members

From: Lucrecia Nold, Policy Specialist, Kansas Catholic Conference

Date: March 8, 2023

Madam Chair and members of the Committee,

My name is Lucrecia Nold, and I serve as the Policy Specialist for the Kansas Catholic Conference, representing the Catholic Bishops of Kansas. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony as a PROPONENT to bill HB 2313.

Pope Francis tells us: "It is God who gives life. Let us respect and love human life, especially vulnerable life in a mother's womb."

As simple and reasonable as Pope Francis's statement may be, the unfortunate truth is that too often, when women find themselves in an unplanned pregnancy, they feel there is no option other than abortion.

We know from the latest KDHE report, that in 2021 7,849 abortions were performed within the state of Kansas. This represents a 4.1% increase compared to the year 2020.<sup>1</sup> With surrounding states enforcing stricter abortion laws compared to Kansas, the abortion industry reports many women are traveling to Kansas for abortions and most likely the total numbers of abortion within the state will increase even more from 2021.

As abortions in Kansas increase, it stands to reason that failed abortions will also increase. The CDC reports that from 2003-2014, at least 143 babies were born alive from an attempted abortion but later died.<sup>2</sup> The state of Arizona reported as recently as 2017 that ten (10) babies were born alive in just five months.<sup>3</sup> And

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.kdhe.ks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/22847/KS-Abortions-2021-PDF?bidId=>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/health\\_policy/mortality-records-mentioning-termination-of-pregnancy.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/health_policy/mortality-records-mentioning-termination-of-pregnancy.htm)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.azdhs.gov/documents/preparedness/public-health-statistics/abortions/2017-arizona-abortion-report.pdf>

even Canada reported that they had 766 babies born alive during an abortion procedure between the years 2013-2018.<sup>4</sup>

One might then ask themselves, “what happens to these babies?” Regrettably, there is not a definitive answer. Some may receive the proper medical treatment they need and deserve, while others might be left for dead or worse killed by the abortionist or presiding medical staff. As cruel and gruesome as this may sound, it sadly is a reality we know happens. An example of this would be from back in 2013, when three former employees of an abortion clinic, from Denton, TX, testified that the doctor they worked under actively killed babies born alive during an abortion.<sup>5</sup>

To further illustrate that babies are being born alive during their attempted abortions, there is an entire network created specifically for these individuals. The Abortion Survivors Network is an organization that allows individuals who survived their abortions to connect with others like themselves, find healing and hope. And according to their website, since 1973, 85,000 babies have survived abortions.<sup>6</sup>

We might not know how many babies within Kansas have been born alive from their attempted abortion. But common sense tells us that this is almost assuredly happening right here in Kansas. We have a basic, fundamental human right and responsibility to care for and protect these babies once they enter the world. Every child bears the face of Jesus Christ, bears the face of the Lord. Let us ensure that we help protect and care for these most vulnerable Kansans by passing HB 2313. Can we not agree that every child born—even those coming into the world through an attempted abortion—deserve the proper medical care and treatment he or she deserves?

We respectfully ask that you vote YES on HB 2313. Thank you for your consideration.

Lucrecia Nold

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<sup>4</sup> <https://lozierinstitute.org/questions-and-answers-on-born-alive-abortion-survivors/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9fhyJltGPko&t=167s>

<sup>6</sup> <https://abortion survivors.org/>