



## **Proponent Testimony on House Bill 2789**

House Health and Human Services Committee | February 16, 2024

Chairwoman Landwehr and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2789. My name is Jeanne Gawdun and I am the Director of Government Relations with Kansans for Life (KFL).

KFL and its statewide membership strongly support life-affirming options for women facing a decision related to abortion. In 2023, the legislature established the Alternatives to Abortion fund to provide \$2 million in state aid to women facing unexpected pregnancies.

HB 2789 codifies and renames the newly established Alternatives to Abortion Program funding to the Pregnancy Compassion Act. The legislation before you would also increase funding for the program providing services through Pregnancy Resource Centers (PRCs), maternity homes and adoption agencies to women facing unplanned pregnancies.

There are over 50 pregnancy resource centers (PRCs), maternity homes and adoption agencies in Kansas offering a variety of social services to women in need. According to the KDHE's Woman's Right to Know Website, some of the services PRCs offer are: pregnancy testing, pregnancy counseling, adoption referrals and services, housing assistance, education and employment counseling and referrals, sonograms, parenting classes, maternity and infant clothing and supplies, financial assistance with housing and utilities, STD /STI testing, medical care referrals, child care assistance, and post-abortion counseling. Maternity homes assist homeless women who are facing an unexpected pregnancy and provide them with a safe place to live.

PRCs largely provide social services to women and their families and are up front about the fact that they do not perform or refer for abortions. While not all PRCs provide medical services, many do. Medical services offered by PRCs are performed by licensed medical professionals, such as doctors, nurses, and ultrasound technicians, who are bound by medical and ethical directives as a condition of their licensing. PRCs do not profit from any decision a woman makes about her pregnancy.

A recent study published in the peer-reviewed journal *Contraception*, which describes itself as an “international reproductive health journal” shows that PRCs offer better and less expensive services than abortion facilities.<sup>1</sup>

The results found that PRCs were more likely to offer same-day appointments and had shorter appointment waiting times than abortion clinics, and only a small percentage of PRCs charged for pregnancy tests and ultrasounds compared to abortion clinics where the median charge for pregnancy tests was \$24 and for ultrasounds was \$162.

As of now, HB 2789 does not include a state appropriation. Missouri currently appropriates over \$8 million a year for a similar initiative. The State of Texas appropriates \$70 million and Tennessee recently approved a \$20 million appropriation.<sup>2</sup>

When looking at the source of revenue for the fund, our preference would be for the legislature to look at an appropriation from the State General Fund and not add fees to any existing license plates.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2789. I respectfully ask the committee to pass the bill out favorably and will stand for questions.

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<sup>1</sup> [Vinekar, Contraception, Volume 117, January 2023, Pages 30-35](#)

<sup>2</sup> [https://lozierinstitute.org/fact-sheet-state-alternatives-to-abortion-funding/#\\_ftn51](https://lozierinstitute.org/fact-sheet-state-alternatives-to-abortion-funding/#_ftn51)