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Written PROPONENT TESTIMONY for bill HB 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.

To: House Committee on Taxation Chair Representative Adam Smith and members of the Committee

From: Alice Thompson, Executive Director, Heart Choices Pregnancy & Parenting Resource Center

Date: February 1, 2023

Chairperson Smith and members of the Committee,

My name is Alice Thompson and I serve as Executive Director at Heart Choices Pregnancy & Parenting Resource Center in Beloit, Kansas, with satellite office in Concordia and Osborne. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony as a PROPONENT to bill HB 2135.

Heart Choices, Inc. is a non-profit facility which serves the greater North Central Kansas area and provides positive options and education to women and men facing unplanned pregnancies, as well as parenting classes, life skills training, and material aid through an *Earn While You Learn* program for those who are expecting or currently parenting. I began as director when opened our Beloit location in 2002 and we now serve clients in the greater North Central Kansas area at three locations – Beloit, Concordia, Osborne.

All services provided by Heart Choices are free of charge and confidential and include, but are not limited to pregnancy tests, limited obstetrical ultrasound, pregnancy education, parenting education which meets requirements for recommendations from courts and social service agencies, adoption information, maternity and baby needs (diapers, formula, clothing, baby furniture, maternity clothes, and more), spiritual mentoring, and resource lists/referrals for additional needed services not provided by Heart Choices. Our services are available to both men and women with no income eligibility requirement and are valued highly in our community.

In a rural area of Kansas, these services have filled a void of available resources for many in the past 21½ years, such as these two mothers who shared:

“I had really messed my life up with drugs and problems with the law. Now I feel I’ve been waiting my whole life for this little guy. I’m at a point where I love life again. The support system I have at Heart Choices is a big part of that”

"I was at a time where life was not going the way I planned. It was really hard for me as a first time mom being away from my family. Heart Choices is a blessing that really helped me and my daughter. I am so thankful for them being part of our journey."

Heart Choices, Inc. is a 501-c-3 public non-profit and does not receive state or federal funding. We rely totally on donations from individuals, churches, and businesses, and from fundraising events. We have been blessed by the many individuals who have partnered with and supported our organization, however the ever rising cost of living has definitely put a strain on the budgets of our dedicated donors.

The proposed PRC Tax Credit would be a huge incentive to those who value life and family to give to sustain these services and allow our organization and the many other pregnancy centers and maternity homes in Kansas to reach out to more women and men through marketing, additional staff, and more services to meet the ever-growing needs of our communities,

Heart Choices would encourage you to support HB 2135 as a way to make the great State of Kansas the very best place to live and raise a family.

Thank you very much for your time.

Contact: Alice Thompson, Executive Director, Heart Choices Pregnancy & Parenting Resource Center. heartbeat@nckcn.com