



Testimony in Support of H.B. 2749
Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee

Brittany Jones

March 19, 2024

Chairwoman Gossage, and members of the Committee, my name is Brittany Jones. I am an attorney and the Director of Policy and Engagement for Kansas Family Voice. Kansas Family Voice cares deeply about ensuring women receive the support and care they need when they are facing a difficult pregnancy. Abortion reporting laws assist this body finding tangible ways to support pregnant women and help us understand the reality of how abortion is impacting women in Kansas.

Our current abortion reporting laws have given us some window into the abortion industry but many of the requirements need to be put into statute to ensure ongoing consistency in the data collected. Much of the current report is only part of the rules and regulations and not actually part of statute. Adding these requirements to the statute will ensure the ongoing consistency of the report.

Further, a major flaw in our current statute is that there is no timeline for KDHE to issue their report. Reports have been as last as six months after the end of the reporting deadline.¹ This makes it incredibly difficult for this body to respond in a timely way to any issues that may arise from the report. It is reasonable for this body to expect that the data be presented to them in a timely manner.

We know that the abortion industry has this data as they have reported it voluntarily to other groups.² There is no reason for KDHE to delay releasing this information. This data gives this Legislature the opportunity to reflect on services that women may need that it could consider providing them.

Sixteen states from a wide swath of perspectives ask women why they are seeking an abortion.³ Adding these questions to our current abortion reporting law can help this body and others know how to meet women where they are in life.

Abortion reporting laws are commonplace even in states that are most permissive, and even supportive, of abortion. These reports ensure the laws are followed, and that we are responsive to what is happening in women's lives. Further, clarifying the time frame in which the reports should be issued is vital to this body responding in a timely manner. Thank you for the opportunity to share with you our reasons for supporting H.B. 2749. I ask that this report H.B. 2749 favorably for passage and stand open for questions at the appropriate time. Thank you!

¹ Abortions in Kansas grew by thousands last year, Jonathan Shoreman, June 23, 2023, <https://www.kansascity.com/news/politics-government/article276697801.html>.

² Rose Conlon, Here's why Kansas abortions rose 114% in the first half of 2023, Sept. 8, 2023, <https://www.kcur.org/2023-09-07/kansas-jump-abortions-2023-new-study>.

³ Arizona, Alaska, Florida, Hawaii, Louisiana, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia.