



Testimony of Taylor Morton, Kansas Lobbyist and Policy Analyst (written testimony)
Planned Parenthood Great Plains Votes
Regarding HB 2749 (Opponent)
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
March 19, 2024

Planned Parenthood Great Plains Votes (“PPGPV”) is the advocacy and political arm of Comprehensive Health of Planned Parenthood Great Plains (“CHPPGP”). CHPPGP offers expert, compassionate sexual and reproductive health care to patients with three health center locations in Kansas. PPGPV submits this testimony in opposition to House Bill 2749. HB 2749 would require medical care facilities and providers to report the reasons for each abortion performed to the secretary of health and environment.

Data collection is important, and policy decisions should be informed by objective data and facts. This is especially true when policy decisions impact citizens’ constitutional rights. The primary problem with HB 2749 is that the reporting requirements proposed is not for the intention of collecting data to inform policy or improve support systems for pregnant Kansans. There is already plenty of objective data that could be used to inform policy that addresses the issues Kansans face. Instead of creating and implementing policies that would provide actual benefits, we are made to argue against harmful, stigmatizing legislation like HB 2749—a bill that seeks only to stigmatize, harass, and shame abortion patients and providers. If the true intent of this bill is to gather data that can inform policymakers on how best to help pregnant people in Kansas, why doesn’t this bill require all pregnant patients to answer these questions? Why aren’t patients required to answer these invasive questions when they decide to carry a pregnancy to term? From a research perspective, it is equally important to understand the factors that lead a pregnant person to carry a pregnancy to term. Yet, HB 2749 only targets patients seeking abortion care. Don’t all pregnant people need help and support?

Therein lies the heart of what makes HB 2749 so harmful and problematic—this bill is not meant to collect objective data to determine what problems pregnant people face and the best course of action the Legislature can take to address these problems. The sole purpose of HB 2749 is to gather subjective data that can be manipulated and used as evidence to support what the anti-abortion lobby deems the greatest problem: abortion. Even the slightest look beneath the surface of this bill reveals the inherent premise of stigma against abortion patients and providers. The underlying assumption of this bill is that abortion patients are victims who only decide to have an abortion because of some imagined external factor. The only reason one needs for seeking abortion care is that they want an abortion, and they have the constitutional right to access abortion care. HB 2749 stigmatizes abortion patients by assuming that all abortion patients need “saving,” and this bill fails to consider the undeniable fact that abortion is lifesaving.

Deciding to have an abortion—like every pregnancy decision—is personal and cannot be distilled to a list of 11 legislatively defined reasons. This list doesn’t consider patients to whom none of these reasons apply—patients who simply do not want to be pregnant and are exercising their constitutional right to access the health care they need. Everyone’s reasons for making their own health care decisions are unique and personal. For this reason, politicians have no business interfering in these decisions. Instead



of passing HB 2749 or any legislation that serves no meaningful purpose but to restrict abortion, the Legislature should enact policies that ensure Kansans have access to the supports they need—from childcare to medical care—and solve real problems facing Kansans. Abortion is not a problem—but government interference in the right to health care is.

Since this body claims to be solely focused on data, I close with the most pertinent data on abortion in Kansas:

- On August 2nd, 2022, Kansans voted to keep politicians out of their medical decisions by a margin of 20 points.¹
- The 2023 Kansas Speaks poll found that approximately 64% of Kansans said women are in a better position than politicians to make their own decisions about whether to get an abortion.²
- In the same Kansas Speaks poll, more than half of Kansans agreed “the Kansas government should not place any regulations on the circumstances under which women can get abortions.”

If data is needed to inform policy decisions in Kansas, this is where to start. I strongly urge the Committee to oppose HB 2749.

¹ <https://www.npr.org/sections/2022-live-primary-election-race-results/2022/08/02/1115317596/kansas-voters-abortion-legal-reject-constitutional-amendment>

² https://www.fhsu.edu/docking/Kansas-Speaks/2023-kansas-speaks-report-final-revised-10_30_23.pdf