

Legislative Testimony

In **Opposition** to House Bill 2635
House Committee on Federal and State Affairs
February 10, 2026

Written-Only Testimony

Chair Kessler and Members of the Committee,

My name is Logan DeMond, and I am the Director of Policy and Research at the American Civil Liberties Union of Kansas. The ACLU of Kansas is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization with more than 35,000 supporters statewide that works to protect and strengthen the civil rights and liberties of all Kansans. On behalf of the ACLU of Kansas, I am writing in opposition to House Bill 2635, which would undermine the rights of Kansans to receive accurate medical information and information regarding one's constitutional right to an abortion, create special legal privileges for crisis pregnancy centers, and place institutional ideology above the rights and dignity of individuals.

Undermining Informed Consent and Medical Transparency

Because crisis pregnancy centers are not held to the same regulatory standards and oversight as legitimate medical facilities, HB 2635 threatens the right of individuals to receive full, medically accurate, and unbiased information about their health care options. When people seek pregnancy-related care, they deserve honest, complete, and evidence-based information so they can make informed decisions about their bodies, their futures, and their families. This bill prevents state and local governments from requiring certain pregnancy centers to provide basic, factual information about all legal options, including their constitutional right to abortion. As a result, individuals may leave these centers without understanding their full range of choices or where to obtain licensed medical care, and without being given medically accurate guidance such as the safety of abortion-related services. Informed consent is a cornerstone of civil liberties and medical ethics. Laws that allow organizations to withhold critical information interfere with personal autonomy and undermine an individual's ability to make decisions based on their own values and circumstances.

Creating Unequal Standards and Special Legal Privileges

HB 2635 would grant special legal protections to certain pregnancy centers that are not available to other nonprofits or medical providers, shielding these centers from regulations that apply to hospitals, clinics, counseling services, and other health-related organizations. Crisis pregnancy centers are exempted from transparency requirements and accountability measures that exist to protect the public, creating one set of rules for most health and social service providers, and a different, privileged set of rules for organizations that promote a specific ideology.

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No organization is entitled to special treatment under the law because of its beliefs. Equal protection and fairness require that all providers who serve the public play by the same rules, especially when dealing with sensitive personal and medical information. By favoring certain organizations, this bill weakens consumer protections, further insulates crisis pregnancy centers from necessary oversight, and increases the risk that Kansans will be misled when seeking care.

Placing Institutional Interests Above Individual Rights

HB 2635 prioritizes institutional ideology over individual rights. Instead of ensuring the needs, dignity, and autonomy of pregnant people are met, this bill elevates the preferences of certain organizations by insulating them from accountability and limiting what governments can do to protect the public. Every person deserves unbiased, factual information and has a right to equal protection under the law. This bill provides state-sanctioned support for medical misinformation and places crisis pregnancy centers on a legal pedestal to the detriment of the individuals seeking care.

Conclusion

House Bill 2635 moves Kansas in the wrong direction. It weakens informed consent, creates unequal standards under the law, and places institutional ideology above the rights and dignity of individuals. Rather than empowering people to make their own deeply personal health care decisions, this bill restricts access to information and limits the ability of state and local governments to protect the public. For these reasons, on behalf of the ACLU of Kansas, I respectfully urge this Committee to oppose House Bill 2635.

Logan DeMond
Director of Policy and Research