



**Taryn Jones, Equality Kansas Lobbyist
House Health and Human Services
Testimony in Opposition of HB 2793
Hearing date – February 15th, 2024, 1:30**

Dear Health and Human Services Committee,

I am writing to in opposition to HB 2793. I believe that it is always important for parents and guardians to be involved in their child's care. However, Kansas already has informed consent laws that have very few exceptions. This bill seems redundant as parents and guardians already have the final say in almost all their child's care.

There are notably two exceptions that this bill does repeal. It is the opinion of Equality Kansas that these exceptions are very important and deserve to remain as exceptions to informed consent.

The first one, K.S.A 38-123 states that minors who are pregnant and unmarried have a right to make medical decisions when there is not a parent or guardian available. This statute is important for many reasons. One being that pregnant teens who are runaways need to be able to get care. If this bill is passed this could mean that teens are not able to receive needed prenatal care. If this bill is passed this could also potentially limit care to a minor in an emergency if there is not a parent or guardian there to consent. A pregnant teen who has decided to birth

her child deserves the right to make medical decisions when there is not a parent or guardian available.

The second exception is K.S.A 65-2892a which states that a minor has the right to make decisions about treatment for drug and alcohol use without the consent of a parent. I believe that minors should play an integral role in the care that they receive. As a social worker I also know that drug and alcohol treatment is not something to be forced on any child or adult. If a person enters treatment for drug and alcohol abuse it needs to be because they are ready and prepared to participate in treatment. This is also why minors should be able to seek out treatment without parental consent.

Due to the repeal of these statutes Equality Kansas cannot support HB 2793 and I would ask that the members of this committee vote against it. Thank you for your time.

Taryn Jones