

Date: March 5, 2024

To: Senator Caryn Tyson, Chair, Senate Assessment and Tax Committee Members of the Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation

From: Donna Kelsey, Executive Director, Kansas City Pregnancy Center

RE: Written only PROPONENT SB 498 Establishing a tax credit for contributions to eligible charitable organizations operating pregnancy centers or residential maternity facilities and establishing a child tax credit, increasing the tax credit amount for adoption expenses and making the credit refundable and providing a sales tax exemption for pregnancy resource centers and residential maternity facilities.

Chair Tyson and members of the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee,

I am honored to speak with you today in support of Senate Bill 498. My name is Donna Kelsey, and I am the Executive Director of Kansas City Pregnancy Clinic. I have served as an executive director for various pregnancy clinics in Kansas for the last 17 years.

The provisions in this bill for a Kansas income tax credit for donors and the sales tax exemption would provide pregnancy clinics with additional needed financial resources to serve pregnant women and families. Most of the women that Kansas City Pregnancy Clinic serves are poor. All our services are free to the clients that we serve including pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, counseling, assistance with completing KanCare applications, diapers and other material items, classes to help empower women, and community referrals. Often it is necessary for us to provide transportation or gas cards to our clients to get to our pregnancy clinic and to provide debit cards for food.

Here is an example of the support that we provide. Recently, Client A came in for a pregnancy test with a small child along her side. During the conversation about her life, we found out she was being regularly abused by her husband. She had a fear that he would really hurt her when he found out she was pregnant. After the pregnancy test and much discussion, client A left our clinic 5 weeks pregnant and went home to her abuser. We contacted her via text to make sure she was ok, and she came back two days later. She stated she felt safe with us and wanted some help from us. We were able to provide her with monies for a motel for one day until Safe Home, a domestic violence shelter, could pick her up. Client A had a little boy and both she and her children are away from the abuser. They have received counseling from Safe Home, and we have provided material aid for the child.

In closing, we would like to emphasize our enthusiastic support for Senate Bill 498. Thank you for your time and thank you for your service to the State of Kansas.

Donna Kelsey
Executive Director
Kansas City Pregnancy Clinic
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