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**Planned Parenthood Advocates of Kansas & Mid-Missouri****Testimony of Elise Higgins****Kansas Manager of Government Affairs****Planned Parenthood Advocates of Kansas & Mid-Missouri****Neutral Testimony on Senate Bill 331****Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee****January 28, 2016**

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Kansas and Mid-Missouri adopts a neutral position on Senate Bill 331 but encourages a friendly amendment to expand nondiscrimination and civil protections to organizations engaged in the lawful provision of abortion services.

**Planned Parenthood Advocates of Kansas and Mid-Missouri adopts a neutral position on Senate Bill 331 as an organization primarily focused on reproductive health care and sex education but concerned with the impacts of gun violence:**

- The mission of Planned Parenthood Advocates of Kansas and Mid-Missouri, a 501c4 organization, is to encourage and protect informed individual choice regarding sexual and reproductive health care; to advocate public policies which allow and guarantee the rights, knowledge and ability to exercise choice and gain full and nondiscriminatory access to reproductive health care; and to foster and preserve a social and political climate favorable to the exercise of private, informed decisions about reproductive and sexual health.
- We advocate for Comprehensive Health of Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri, whose abortion provision in Overland Park, Kansas often makes the organization the target of threats, harassment, and acts of violence. Instances of harassment have increased significantly in the wake of discredited videos by anti-abortion extremists released in the summer of 2015.
- We support reasonable gun safety regulations and policy reforms to the extent that they protect PPKM patients from gun violence such as the tragic incident in Colorado in November of 2015.

**Senate Bill 331 should be amended to include protections for other organizations often subject to political attack which offer legal services and goods to Kansans.**

- Abortion providers in Kansas, including Comprehensive Health of PPKM, regularly experience the discriminatory practices outlined in SB 331 because of political opposition to the reproductive health care services offered there. Such discriminatory practices include but are not limited to businesses refraining to continue an ongoing business relationship and the termination of existing business relationships solely because PPKM is engaged in the provision of safe and legal abortion.
- Specifically, PPKM has experienced cancellation with little notice by venues hosting major events; refusal by vendors to complete the provision of services to which they are contractually obligated, and the cancellation by vendors of services because of political opposition to the services provided by PPKM. We agree with the author of SB 331 that such business practices are unacceptable and should be grounds for civil action based on their discriminatory nature.
- We hold that, just as a person or trade association engaged in the lawful commerce of firearms or ammunition products should not be subject to discrimination because of the nature of their business, so too should politically controversial organizations providing constitutionally protected services be protected from discrimination.

PPAKM encourages the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee to embrace the principles of fairness and rule of law, and to amend SB 331 to include abortion providers.