

Irene Orellana Bonilla

PRIVATE CITIZEN

SB 275

Opponent

Written Only

3/13/2025

Chair Erickson and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on SB 275 with you today. My name is Irene Orellana and I am a voter in Sedgwick County, specifically Wichita. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on SB 275.

I have worked in sexual health education for over 7 years and our youth deserve all the information available to them that is unbiased by any specific religiously affiliated group and that is supported by evidence based science. Instead of a video on fetal development, we need our youth to understand consent, learn about healthy relationships, bodily literacy and autonomy. I have worked with women in their 40s who as a result of strict religious upbringing know little to nothing about how their body works, how a period cycle works, how pregnancy occurs, how their ovaries, uterus, cervix, and vagina are all connected to their overall health not a separate part of their being that is exempt from care and maintenance. Young people regardless of their reproductive organs should be taught scientifically accurate anatomy and physiology that is not biased. These should be priorities to Kansans, not a video on fetal development.

thank you all for hearing my story and thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of SB 275. Thank you.

Gregory Brown, PhD

Private citizen.

SB 275

Opponent

Written Only

1/12/2025

Chair Erickson and Members of the Committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my thoughts on SB 275 with you. My name is Gregory Brown and I am a voter in Johnson County, Lenexa. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on SB 275.

It is imperative that our young students receive accurate and factual information about human development, including prenatal development. Having taught this material at the college level the need is clear to me. Our children and teens will not benefit from inaccurate and misleading information; in fact they will likely be harmed.

Thank you for reading my comments. I sincerely urge you to VOTE NO on SB 275.



Opponent Testimony  
SB 275 - Requiring school districts to include a fetal development presentation  
Senate Education Committee  
March 13, 2025  
Laurel Burchfield  
Advocacy Director, Mainstream Coalition

Chair Erickson and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent testimony for Senate Bill 275 on behalf of Mainstream Coalition.

Mainstream was founded over 30 years ago by faith leaders who warned about the intrusion of narrow, extremist religious views into our government and public institutions. In the following decades, Mainstream members have fought to protect our religious freedoms and maintain strong church-state separation because Kansans value their freedom to live as they see fit without the overreach of government or religion into their personal lives.

**Mainstream OPPOSES SB 275.** This bill is anti-abortion propaganda imposed upon our schools by religious extremists.

First, on the timeline of this hearing. SB 275 is being rushed through the legislative process at the last minute. Despite being introduced on February 18, the committee hearing was announced just yesterday, giving advocates less than 24 hours to prepare and submit their testimony. **In our representative democracy, Kansans deserve the opportunity to share their concerns regarding bills that would directly impact their lives. SB 275 would have a significant impact on the way that Kansas youth are being taught about human development and sex education, something that parents and educators should have been given an appropriate amount of time to submit testimony on.**

Bills similar in nature to SB 275 have been introduced in 20 state legislatures this session, with many of them including nearly identical language requiring “a presentation of a high-quality, computer-generated animation or high definition ultrasound of at least three minutes in duration that shows the development of the brain, heart and other vital organs in early human fetal development.” **SB 275 is model legislation being pushed by anti-abortion organizations from outside of Kansas.**

Many of these bills, though not all, explicitly name the “Meet Baby Olivia” film. In 2023 and 2024, North Dakota and Tennessee passed bills very similar to SB 275 that do not specify which 3 minute video must be shown. But since this is the primary, if not only, film that meets the very specific requirements listed in SB 275, the final results are the same – schools are being mandated to show the “Baby Olivia” or very similar film.

So who is Olivia? Olivia is a computer generated fetus that is named, gendered, and presented with medically inaccurate human development in an attempt to stigmatize abortions. Throughout the film, timestamps show development that is anywhere from 2-10 weeks earlier than medical experts believe to be accurate, falsely identifying when a fetus has a heartbeat, vocal cords, and survivability outside of the womb. The Baby Olivia timeline is based on the moment of conception, rather than the first day of the last menstrual period, which is standard that medical professionals use.<sup>1</sup> **Video using computer generated animation rather than relying exclusively on real ultrasound footage allows for this inaccurate depiction of fetal development that is based in religious, not medically accurate, beliefs regarding conception.**

Further, this film has been called out by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) as anti-abortion misinformation.<sup>2</sup> Instead, it was created by Live Action, an extremist organization of anti-abortion advocates and doctors affiliated with the Charlotte Lozier Institute, whose research has been discredited and retracted from leading research journals. **The Baby Olivia video, and others that use computer animation to fictionalize the human development process, are anti-abortion propaganda.**

**SB 275 prioritizes religious beliefs over scientific fact, and exposes children to dangerous misinformation at a critical time when sex education needs to be accurate, reliable, and trusted.** SB 275 doesn't specify an age or grade level, nor does it define instruction on "human growth, human development or human sexuality." There is no attempt to identify the appropriate age or maturity level for when a child can be exposed to this propaganda, meaning that any class from K-12 that touches on "human development" could be subject to a "Baby Olivia" style video.

This bill is bad for our students and serves the agenda of those working to impose an extremist religious view onto all Kansans, regardless of their own faith (or non-faith) beliefs regarding conception and abortion.

**For these reasons, Mainstream opposes SB 275, and we urge you to vote no.**

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<sup>1</sup> "‘Meet Baby Olivia’: The anti-abortion propaganda film is mandatory in some classrooms,: Medical professionals have criticized the video for misleading viewers with inaccurate information," The Independent, January 24, 2205. Found at: <https://www.the-independent.com/news/world/americas/us-politics/meet-baby-olivia-anti-abortion-film-b2686040.html>

<sup>2</sup> "Sex ed classes in some states may soon watch a fetal development video from an anti-abortion group," AP News, February 22, 2024. Found at: <https://apnews.com/article/baby-olivia-sex-education-fetal-development-42415141e15057bc91f34bc2d34e449e>

Andy Cox

Private Citizen

SB 275

Opponent

Written Only

3/13/2025

Members of the committee, thank you for taking the time to hear my thoughts on SB 275 today. My name is Andy Cox, and I am a voter in Wichita. I write to encourage you to vote NO on SB 275.

I am a professional in medical education, and I oppose this bill. Experts agree that this bill does not provide guidance for accurate curriculum as it relates to fetal development. We all agree that education should be age appropriate and taught with accurate context, and it is clear that this bill does not achieve that. This bill encourages misleading and incomplete narratives about human development that furthurs a political ideological agenda at the expense of young Kansan's education. Many of these Kansans will themselves become healthcare workers, and our community deserves people who have been taught only scientifically and medically accurate information.

Thank you for listening to my professional opinion as a medical educator. I encourage you all to vote NO on the passage of SB 275. Thank you.

LORENE DAMEWOOD

PRIVATE CITIZEN

SB 275

Opponent

Written Only

3/12/2025

Chair Erickson and Members of the Committee, thank you for giving me time to share my thoughts on SB 275 with you today. My name is Lorene Damewood and I am a voter in Johnson County/Shawnee. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on SB 275.

Young people need to have sex education that is appropriate to their developmental stages. This needs to be truthful, relevant information provided by trusted people, rather than propaganda designed to place a stigma on abortion. Teaching fetal development or showing a video of an ultrasound without context is worthless without scientific or medical basis. This bill seeks to push misleading, anti-science "information" into classrooms, denying students an accurate, inclusive education. We should do better as a state.

Again, thank you for hearing my thoughts on the bill, and I encourage all of you to vote NO on the passage of SB 275. Thank you.



**Opponent Testimony on SB 275  
concerning school districts; relating to certain curriculum; requiring the inclusion of a  
human fetal development presentation as part of the curriculum for any course that  
addresses human growth, human development or human sexuality.**

**March 14, 2025**

**Judith Deedy on behalf of Game On for Kansas Schools**

Chair Erickson, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to SB 275 on behalf of Game On for Kansas Schools, a grassroots public education advocacy organization. As Kansas parents and community members who support public education, we oppose SB 275 as inappropriate legislative overreach into the authority of the State Board of Education and local boards.

Like the legislature, our State Board and local boards of education are elected. The Kansas Constitution grants authority over setting curriculum standards to the State Board of Education. Local boards exercise authority over specific curricula for their own districts. The legislature does not establish curriculum standards or curricula for districts across the state.

This bill is extremely specific and dictates a particular curricular matter. This is clearly under the authority of the local school boards. As worded, this particular curriculum also could be mandated multiple times during a student's academic life, making this bill redundant as well as inappropriate. If local citizens want this specific curriculum in their district's schools, they can participate in the curriculum development process. There is no justification for the legislature to override this process. This also appears to inappropriately introduce abortion politics into our classrooms.

We urge you to oppose SB 275.

Donnavan Dillon

Private Citizen

SB 275

Opponent

Written Only

3/13/2025

Chair Erickson and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on SB 275 with you today. My name is Donnavan Dillon, and I am a voter in Lawrence, KS. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on SB 275

As a proud born and raised Kansan, I am a productive member of our K-12 education system and a current senior studying political science and sociology. I love our Kansas public schools and everyone who works tirelessly to make them whole, from teachers and paras to janitors and school councilors. I am where I am today because of the knowledge and guidance of so many extraordinary public school employees who have invested in my development and future, not only as a student but as a person. Outside of my education, I have been in legislative and community organizing for the past 7 years, urging you to vote against this bill.

As a college student, I am not far too removed from the importance of education about sexual health and sexual health development. As someone who has used sexual health knowledge I've gained in high school and beyond to make wise decisions when it comes to making informed decisions about my body and what healthy habits look like, I know the importance of science-backed information meant to educate and answer the questions young people have about their developing bodies. Sex education's ultimate goal should be to inform developing youth about how their developing bodies work and the science behind what healthy and safe sexual habits and practices look like to ensure our students are educated on an essential part of human biology found in us all. Unfortunately, SB 275 does not meet that mark.



The aim of SB 275 is to subject Kansas youth to watch a video or receive instruction on fetal development without any medical or scientific basis. Their only purpose is to promote anti-abortion stigma and false narratives, not to provide young people with meaningful, evidence-based health education. This kind of propaganda has no place in our schools. This type of education was exactly what I received in the 5th grade. Our teachers separated the male and female students. In contrast, me and my male counterparts got to have light-hearted jokes and giggle at the diagram of a penis as we munched on goldfish crackers - the girls were in the next classroom over watching a video of a live childbirth. Despite our lighthearted jokes about the topic, we got to ask our teacher about the male reproductive system, puberty, and sexual development, giving everyone, even the jokesters, something positive to take away. On the other hand, the girls were so shocked by what they had seen that they sat in silence, too shocked even to think to bring up a more controversial question about female puberty, body changes, or sexual development. While both instances can be argued to be "educational" and science-based, we can see which was more impactful and appropriate to our education and growth as students.

The other issue with this bill is that it would pedal medically inaccurate and misleading videos or curricula produced by anti-abortion groups with a political agenda. Human sexuality and the fact that we are inherently sexual beings is not a partisan issue or up for political debate. We know that developing youth are likely to engage with sex and their growing bodies. The only way to ensure this is done healthily is with proper education. Young Kansans deserve the right to an education meant to serve THEM, not a political party. Parents deserve to know their children are educated with age-appropriate, fact-based, and medically accurate information. Anyone in support of this bill is more focused on a political win than the harm poor and medically inaccurate sexual health information has on our youth (and future adults) in the state. Please prioritize the rights of young Kansans to accurate and inclusive medical information rather than furthering an ideological agenda for personal gain and campaigning talking points. We deserve that, at the bare minimum, if you care about our youth or the future of our state.

Once again, I thank you all for hearing my story and thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you to vote no on the passage of SB 275. Our Kansas educators, parents, and youth deserve it. Thank you

Jeff Evans

Private Citizen

SB 275

Opponent

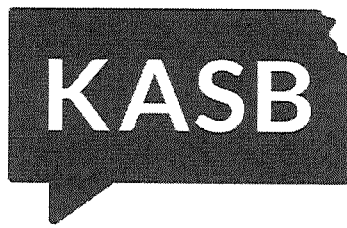
Written Only

3/13/2025

Chair Erickson Members of the Committee. I am Jeff Evans. I am a registered republican in Johnson County. I vote in every election no matter how small or large. I am writing to encourage the committee to vote No on SB 275.

I believe our children's education should begin at home. My wife and I raised our three children in the wonderful Shawnee Mission school district and I hope to see my grandchildren in this same high achieving environment in the near future. We watched our children suffer through so much anxiety in Middle School and High School. Please refrain from adding unnecessary burdens to those who are already struggling.

Thank you for considering my thoughts. I will reiterate; please vote no on the passage of SB 275. Sincerely, Jeff Evans



**Written Opponent Testimony on  
SB 275  
Senate Education Committee**

**By  
Leah Fliter  
Assistant Executive Director of Advocacy**

**Kansas Association of School Boards  
lfliter@kasb.org  
March 13, 2025**

Chair Erickson and Members of the Committee,

KASB offers this testimony in opposition to SB 275, as it is a substantial overreach into the constitutional responsibilities of the State Board of Education and local boards of education.

KASB's member-adopted permanent policies affirm the authority of local boards of education over curriculum decisions and calls upon the Legislature to reject proposals that mandate or control local curriculum decisions:

**2. Curriculum Authority**

A district's curriculum should be established by the local board of education, not by state statute. KASB opposes efforts to directly or indirectly limit the board's ability to determine curriculum, library, and other instructional materials.

Setting state standards is squarely within the constitutional authority of the State Board of Education, and choosing instructional materials is squarely within the constitutional authority of local boards of education. In its 2025 Resolution on State Issues, KASB members reaffirmed their steadfast support of State Board and local control of such decisions:

We support general supervision of public schools under the State Board of Education, including setting standards for accreditation, learning standards, graduation, and licensure.

We support management of public schools under locally elected boards of education, including setting curriculum, staffing, financial management and policies, so that such schools can progress and meet State Board standards.

This bill overrules the constitutional authority of both the SBOE and local boards of education with respect to setting learning standards and choosing curricula in this area. It mandates districts to teach about these issues in a particular way. Having the Legislature dictate to local boards of education and the State Board of Education which curriculum a district may choose to meet learning standards is an unnecessary and likely unconstitutional overreach into the decision-making authority of local school boards, as well as the authority of the State Board of Education to adopt learning standards for public schools.

For these reasons, KASB respectfully requests the committee not to reject SB 275.

Thank you.

*KASB is a non-profit service organization built on an abiding belief in Kansas public schools. We have put the needs of students and K-12 leaders first since 1917.*

Danielle George

Private Citizen

SB 275

Opponent

Written Only

3/13/2025

Chair Erickson and Members of the Committee, thank you for giving me time to share my thoughts on SB 275 with you today. My name is Danielle George and I am a voter in Spring Hill. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on SB 275.

Kansans deserve accurate, age-appropriate sex education; not a medically inaccurate and misleading video whose only purpose is to promote anti-abortion stigma and false narratives, or curriculum produced by anti-abortion groups with a political agenda.

Our students deserve a curriculum that is relevant to their lives and experiences and not something a focus group has deemed acceptable. Passing this bill will cause undue harm to young people and that is not representative of who Kansas is.

Once again, I thank you all for hearing my thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of SB 275. Thank you.

Marie Goddard

Private Citizen

SB 275

Opponent

Written Only

3/12/2025

Thank you Chair Erickson and members of the committee, thanks for giving me time to share my thoughts on SB 275. My name is Marie Goddard from Shawnee (Johnson County) KS. I am urging the committee to vote NO on SB 275.

I am a nurse, I taught sex education to 8th graders. I have the background to provide answers to their questions. Showing a film does not allow this. The film should be objective and factual, not biased one way or another. I am very concerned that due to the leanings of our majority of legislators that factual, objective, unbiased information will not be what is provided to students. Our children deserve the unbiased, objective truth about reproduction, pregnancy and birth. FACTS.

Thank you again for the opportunity to voice my concerns about the passage of SB 275.



Kansas  National  
Education Association

Making public schools great for every child

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KANSAS NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION / 715 SW 10TH AVENUE / TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1686

Timothy R. Graham  
Director of Government Relations & Legislative Affairs  
Written Testimony – Opponent  
Senate Committee on Education  
Senate Bill 275  
March 13, 2025

Chairperson Erickson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to SB 275.

Kansas NEA is a member-driven organization representing all 40,000 educators in the state of Kansas, with nearly 22,000 active members. The positions we advocate for have been proposed, debated, and adopted by several hundred members selected by their peers to attend our annual Representative Assembly.

One such resolution on curriculum states:

*"Kansas NEA believes educators must be involved in the development of curriculum and the adoption of instructional materials."*

The most fundamental way to ensure that teachers are included in curriculum decisions is to keep these decisions at the local level. Under SB 275, the legislature would compel the Kansas State Board of Education to create curriculum standards for a new learning program while also mandating the instructional materials that local school boards must use should they choose to offer such a program. Both actions circumvent the traditional process and would further hinder educator involvement.

KNEA strongly supports the principle that curriculum standards fall under the constitutional authority and responsibility of the Kansas State Board of Education.

Additionally, KNEA believes that curriculum materials for classroom instruction should be determined by local school boards. If a local school board opts to provide a particular curriculum, it should have the autonomy to explore and select curriculum materials that best align with the unique needs of its community, families, educators, and students.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the committee to oppose SB 275.

Alton Hagen

PRIVATE CITIZEN

SB 275

Opponent

Written Only

3/13/2025

Chair Erickson and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on SB 275 with you today. My name is WRITE YOUR NAME and I am a voter in WRITE YOUR COUNTY/CITY. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on SB 275

This bill would teach medically inaccurate information at a time when students most need accurate, reliable, and trusted sex education.

Once again, I thank you for accepting this letter of opposition and encourage you to vote no of the passage of SB 275. Thank you.



Marilyn Hammond

Private Citizen

SB 275

Opponent

Written Only

3/13/2025

Chair Erickson and Members of the Committee, thank you for giving me time to share my thoughts. My name is Marilyn Hammond and I am a voter in Prairie Village in Johnson County. I am writing to ask you to please vote NO on SB 275.

I am a retired teacher. I am very opposed to extreme religious views being imposed upon the children of Kansas. Our students deserve accurate, age-appropriate sex education -- not a medically inaccurate and misleading video or curriculum produced by anti-abortion groups with a political agenda.

Research shows that parents overwhelmingly want their children to receive sex education that is age-appropriate, fact-based, and medically accurate. Instead, these bills seek to push misleading, anti-science messages into classrooms—furthering an ideological agenda at the expense of young people's right to accurate and inclusive education.

Thank you reviewing my concerns. I strongly encourage you to vote NO on SB 275.

Jane Hogan

Private Citizen

SB 275

Opponent

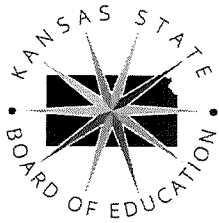
Written Only

3/13/2025

Chair Erickson and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to address my concerns about SB 275. My name is Jane Hogan and I am a voter in Leawood, Kansas. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on SB 275

I am deeply concerned that this bill requires information that will not be presented in a larger context. In fact, I'm afraid the motivation behind it is to promote a pro-life agenda. I believe sex education does belong in our schools, assuming that it is medically accurate and not designed to persuade or to promote a political agenda.

Thank you for your consideration, and again I encourage you to vote no on SB 275.



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Danny Zeck  
District 1

Melanie Haas  
District 2

Michelle Dombrosky  
District 3

Connie O'Brien  
District 4

Cathy Hopkins  
District 5

Beryl New  
District 6

Dennis Hershberger  
District 7

Betty J. Arnold  
District 8

Jim Porter  
District 9

Debby Potter  
District 10

3/12/2025

## **Opponent Testimony for Senate Bill 275**

Senate Committee on Education  
Cathy Hopkins and Danny Zeck, Liaisons  
Kansas State Board of Education

Chair Erickson and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent testimony regarding Senate Bill 275 on behalf of the State Board of Education. The State Board of Education voted to prioritize the authority of local boards of education in the Board's 2025 Legislative Priorities. Senate Bill 275 does not support local boards of education's authority in determining appropriate curriculum best suited for their district in alignment with Kansas educational standards set by the State Board of Education.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our testimony,

Cathy Hopkins

Danny Zeck

*Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.*

Corliss Jacobs

Private Citizen

SB 275

Opponent

Written Only

3/13/2025

Chair Erickson and Members of the Education Committee, thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts on SB 275. My name is Mrs Corliss Jacobs and I am a voter in Johnson county - Olathe. I am writing today to ask the committee to vote NO on SB 275"

Although students of later high school ages should have the opportunity to learn about fetal development, the film being promoted isn't accurate and has a subtle anti-abortion message. Films that students should view in a science or human development class should be factual and accurate without attempting to proselytize. Also requiring this specific topic and film into schools could mean it would just get stuck in a class without lead up preparation.....and I'm pretty sure that science teachers are already teaching this topic in a positive way.

There are other reasons this requirement should not be imposed on teachers and schools but I will stop now. Please vote NO. Thank you

Rabbi Dr. Mark H. Levin

Private Citizen

SB 275

Opponent

Written Only

3/12/2025

Chair Erickson and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the time to share my thoughts on SB 275. My name is Rabbi Dr. Mark H. Levin and I am a voter in Prairie Village in Johnson County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on SB 275.

I hold a doctorate in Jewish traditions as well as being an ordained rabbi. SB 275 represents a concerted attempt to convince students of all ages in Kansas schools that abortion in all circumstances is taking an innocent life unjustly. That is not the case in Jewish law and history, and therefore this bill will mandate teachings in Kansas public schools in opposition to our millennia old and universally recognized religious tradition. As Thomas Jefferson wrote, where there is agreement among religions regarding moral principles the state may pass laws. But where there is not agreement among religious traditions the state ought not interfere in moral codes, as this is religious discrimination and state sponsorship of religion, prohibited by the Sixth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. I urge you to oppose this discriminatory attempt to legislate morality best left to recognized religions in order to educate their believers according to their religious truths and principles.

Thank you for your regard for religious traditions important to many in our state that perhaps are not in concert with your own beliefs, but form part of the fabric of well recognized and respected religious beliefs of many, perhaps a majority, of Kansans.

Cynthia Lukas

PRIVATE CITIZEN

SB 275

Opponent

Written Only

3/12/2025

Chair Erickson and Members of the Committee, thank you for reading my letter with my thoughts about SB 275. My name is Cynthia Lukas, and I am a voter in Merriam, Kansas. I am writing to ask you to vote NO on SB 275.

I oppose this bill because as a former teacher, I do not think this kind of information should be thrust upon our young people in the classroom. It would not be providing accurate information about fetal development to students with real footage of that, but it would be propaganda against abortion with misleading animation.

Thank you for listening. I encourage you to vote NO on SB 275. Thank you.

Leslie D. Mark

Private Citizen | Engaged Voter

SB 275

Opponent

Written Only

3/12/2025

Chair Erickson & members of the Committee,

Just a few brief thoughts on SB 275. I am Leslie Mark, resident of Mission Hills — within Senate District 7. I am writing to express my concerns with SB 275 and ask that you vote NO on this legislation.

I am all for educating students and youth about sex — with information and tools that reflect their experiences and needs. Having grown up traveling from post to post with my parents in many countries, I saw first hand how the lack of meaningful, evidence-based health education impacted not just individual women and girls but whole societies.

No expert I have read or heard speak suggests that watching ultrasound videos are best practice for educating about the range of medical situations pregnant women and mis-developing fetuses may face. I've never seen anyone in the medical or educational fields assert that teaching fetal development absent medical context or scientific basis is best practice.

Research shows that parents overwhelmingly want their children to receive sex education that is age-appropriate, fact-based, and medically accurate. I fully support that! Invoking stigma and false narratives about abortion doesn't help young people gain any meaningful, evidence-based health education. Please do not advance misleading, anti-science directives or further ideological agendas via such legislative vehicles as SB 275

Please vote NO on SB 275. Thank you.

Don Mason

PRIVATE CITIZEN

SB 275

Opponent

Written Only

3/12/2025

Chair Erickson and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on SB 275 with you today. My name is Don Mason and I am a voter in Johnson County/Overland Park. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on SB 275.

Research shows that parents overwhelmingly want their children to receive sex education that is age-appropriate, fact-based, and medically accurate. Instead, these bills seek to push misleading, anti-science messages into classrooms—furthering an ideological agenda at the expense of young people's right to accurate and inclusive education.

Once again, I thank you all for hearing my story and thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of SB 275. Thank you.



Jeanie Mason

Private Citizen

SB 275

Opponent

Written Only

3/13/2025

Members of the Committee, thank you for giving me time to share my thoughts on SB 275 with you today. My name is Jeanie Mason and I am a voter in Overland Park, Johnson County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on SB 275"

Kansans deserve accurate, age-appropriate sex education -- not a medically inaccurate and misleading video or curriculum produced by anti-abortion groups with a political agenda

Once again, I thank you all for hearing my story and thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no of the passage of SB 275. Thank you.

# KANSAS CATHOLIC CONFERENCE



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Cell: 316-708-5350

KANSAS STATEHOUSE OFFICE  
Kansas Catholic Conference  
204 SW 8<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Topeka, KS 66603

**Written PROPONENT testimony in favor of SB 275. AN ACT concerning school districts; relating to certain curriculum; requiring the inclusion of a human fetal development presentation as part of the curriculum for any course that addresses human growth, human development or human sexuality.**

TO: Madam Chair Erickson and members of the Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Lucrecia Nold, Public Policy Specialist, Kansas Catholic Conference

DATE: March 13, 2025

Dear Chair Erickson and committee members,

My name is Lucrecia Nold, and I serve as the policy specialist for the Kansas Catholic Conference, representing the Catholic Bishops of Kansas. Thank you for the opportunity to share our support for SB 275.

"Catholic social teaching is a central and essential element of our faith" as noted by the United State Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). Furthermore, Catholic social teaching is based on and inseparable from our understanding of human life and human dignity.

SB 275, we believe, will help awaken and enlighten the minds of children as they explore the wonder of the human person. An educational video showing nascent developmental stages, not only helps teach about life and human dignity, but also scientific and biological facts.

Having full knowledge of our scientific and biological development is beneficial on multiple levels. This teaches individuals to differentiate between facts instead of relative truths and feelings. It also can help young women understand how their bodies are made and most beneficial ways of taking care of them. Allowing young women the best opportunity to be happy, healthy and whole. Just to name a few.

In conclusion, SB 275 helps Kansas children grasp the understanding of human life and dignity, along with the scientific and biological truths of our human development. Therefore, the Kansas Catholic Conference fully supports SB 275 and ask for your support as well.

Thank you.

Lucrecia Nold  
Public Policy Specialist  
Kansas Catholic Conference  
[lucrecia@kansascatholic.org](mailto:lucrecia@kansascatholic.org)

**March 13, 2025**

**Written-Only Testimony to Senate Committee on Education**

**Honorable Chair, Senator Renee Erickson**

Cyndie Rexer, Committee Assistant  
785-296-7476, [S.Education@senate.ks.gov](mailto:S.Education@senate.ks.gov)  
Room 445-S, State Capitol Building

**Opponent SB 275** – Kansas legislative curriculum mandate.

Hearing: Thursday, March 13, 2025, 1:30 am Room 144-S.

Honorable Chair Erickson and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition to SB 275 – A curriculum mandate requiring school districts to include a fetal development presentation as part of the curriculum for any course that addresses human growth, human development or human sexuality.

While Kansas PTA advocates for the health and wellness of our youth ([KS PTA Legislative Platform](#)), we oppose legislative action to determine how and what instructional resources are required to teach human growth, human development or human sexuality. The bill oversteps the authority invested in the State Board of Education and local school boards to make these decisions for their school communities.

Kansas PTA recognizes the unique roles and authority of the educational entities identified in the Kansas constitution. This includes Article VI, regarding public education, to protect non-partisan elections of local school board members and their local control, to hold legislators' accountable for their obligation to provide suitable finance for ongoing educational improvement, as well as State Board of Education oversight of state education standards and accreditations.

Thank you for your consideration and urge committee members to vote no on SB 275.

Denise Sultz  
Kansas PTA President  
[@KsPTALeg](mailto:@KsPTALeg)

Cc: Mary Sinclair, PhD, Kansas PTA Advocate  
Devin Wilson, VP of Advocacy  
Rachel Russell, Legislative Liaison  
Kansas PTA Advocacy Team, [KansasPTA@gmail.com](mailto:KansasPTA@gmail.com)

**THE PTA POSITION**

*Kansas PTA is a nonpartisan association that promotes the welfare of children and youth. The PTA does not endorse any candidate or political party. Rather, we advocate for policies and legislation that affect Kansas youth in alignment with our legislative platform and priorities. PTA mission and purpose have remained the same since our inception over 100 years ago, focused on facilitating every child's potential and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.*

Opponent Testimony

SB 275 - Requiring school districts to include a fetal development presentation

Senate Education Committee

March 13, 2025

Joy Smith

Opponent Testimony

Chair Erickson and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent testimony for Senate Bill 275 on behalf of Mainstream Coalition.

This bill is being rushed through the process, giving Kansans insufficient time to review and determine the implications.

On first glance, it seems to be a thinly veiled effort to introduce anti-abortion propaganda into our public schools. Accurate, scientific information regarding conception and fetal development should be shared with children at an age-appropriate time but this bill leaves open the possibility of using films or images that are computer generated and produced by religious, rather than scientific or medical, groups.

I have children in Kansas public schools and would not wish to have propaganda of this nature shared with them – particularly at younger ages when they may have less ability to think critically about what they are seeing.

I feel that this is bad for our students and does not serve our public education system.

For these reasons, I urge that you vote **NO on SB 275**.

Thank you,

Joy Smith

Ronald Szymankowski

PRIVATE CITIZEN

SB 275

Opponent

Written Only

3/13/2025

Chair Erickson and Members of the Committee, thank you for giving me time to share my thoughts on SB 275. My name is Ronald Szymankowski and I am a voter in Johnson County/Overland Park. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on SB 275.

Kansans deserve accurate, age-appropriate sex education -- not a medically inaccurate and misleading video or curriculum produced by anti-abortion groups with a political agenda.

Research shows that parents overwhelmingly want their children to receive sex education that is age-appropriate, fact-based, and medically accurate. Instead, these bills seek to push misleading, anti-science messages into classrooms—furthering an ideological agenda at the expense of young people’s right to accurate and inclusive education.

Once again, I thank you all for hearing my thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote NO on the passage of SB 275. Thank you

Mackenzi Truelove

Private Citizen

SB 275

Opponent

Written Only

3/13/2025

My name is Mackenzi Truelove and I'm a voter in Sedgwick County. I'm writing to encourage a vote NO on S.B. 275.

Reproductive education is crucial for accurate understanding of sex and its purposes/ consequences. It is also extremely crucial for important family planning and decision making, so accurately representing the fetal growth process in age appropriate education on reproduction is the pinnacle of this knowledge. Misrepresenting the science behind fetal growth and reproduction would be egregious to say the least. People have a right to accurate knowledge on what is going on within their or their partner's bodies so they can make educated decisions about their health. Please vote NO to protect science being depicted as we are aware of it, rather than allowing kids to be mislead about what goes on in the human body.

Again, thanks for hearing my stance on this bill. I encourage you to vote no on the passage of S.B. 275. Thank you.



March 13, 2025

Opponent Written Only Testimony on SB 275  
Senate Committee on Education

Chairperson Erickson and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for allowing us to present our opposition to SB 275. Trust Women Foundation is a Kansas-based health care provider dedicated to ensuring access to abortion care and comprehensive reproductive and sexual health services for our communities.

Kansas continues to face serious public health challenges when it comes to teen sexual health. According to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), our state's teen pregnancy rate is 17.2 per 1,000 females aged 15-19<sup>1</sup>, and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are on the rise, with over 13,000 new cases reported in 2022, many among young people<sup>2</sup>. These numbers aren't just statistics, they represent real Kansas youth who need honest, accurate information to make healthy decisions.

Unfortunately, Senate Bill 275 does not address these urgent issues. Instead, it proposes mandating an undefined, unvetted video in public school classrooms—a video we know nothing about. The bill gives us no clear indication who is creating this video, where it's coming from, or whether it is rooted in objective medical fact. Will it be reviewed by medical experts or educators who will be required to teach it in their classrooms? Or is this just a devious attempt to insert politically motivated, anti-abortion propaganda into Kansas classrooms under the label of "education"? Right now, we simply don't know—and if we don't know, our students shouldn't be forced to watch it.

Public school health education should never be a tool for fear-mongering or political messaging. What our students need is comprehensive, evidence-based sexual education that includes age-appropriate lessons about consent, healthy relationships, contraception, and disease prevention—tools that empower them to protect themselves and lower the rates of teen pregnancy and STIs in Kansas. Research consistently shows that comprehensive, evidence-based sexual education leads to lower rates of teen pregnancy and STIs, delayed sexual activity, and higher contraceptive use<sup>3 4</sup>. By contrast, abstinence-only or ideologically slanted sex education has been found ineffective and even harmful, leaving students without critical health information<sup>5</sup>.



We cannot afford to gamble with the health and education of Kansas youth by turning classrooms into political battlegrounds. If we are serious about reducing unintended pregnancies and STIs and supporting young people, we must reject SB 275 and invest in proven, fact-based sexual education programs that **actually** work.

I urge you to vote NO on SB 275 and instead focus on policies that protect the health, dignity, and futures of Kansas students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jessica Wannemacher  
Senior Vice President of Strategy & Operations  
Trust Women Foundation





#### References

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2. Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Kansas STD Surveillance Annual Report 2022. Published 2023. <https://www.kdhe.ks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/35023/Kansas-STD-Surveillance-Annual-Report-2022>
3. Advocates for Youth. Sex Education: A Brief Review of Effective Programs. <https://advocatesforyouth.org/resources/fact-sheets/sex-education-a-brief-review-of-effective-programs/>
4. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). What Works: Sexual Health Education. <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyouth/whatworks/what-works-sexual-health-education.htm>
5. Guttmacher Institute. Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs Are Ineffective and Harmful. August 2020. <https://www.guttmacher.org/article/2020/08/abstinence-only-until-marriage-programs-are-ineffective-and-harmful>