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HealthCoreClinic.org

Dear Senator O'Donnell,

My name is Teresa Lovelady and I am the CEO of HealthCore Clinic, Inc. (formerly Center for Health and Wellness, Inc.) located in Wichita, KS. We are located three blocks west of Wichita State University and provide access to medical, mental health and substance abuse services to the community regardless of the individual's ability to pay for services. Last year, the clinic served 4,266 individuals and 74% (3,157) were low income while 42% (1,792) were uninsured.

I am writing this email specifically to provide additional information in regards to the proposed SB497. I am concerned that discouraging screenings for prenatal patients will negatively impact the already high infant mortality rates for the Wichita Community? The infant mortality rate is measured by the number of babies that do not survive past their 1st birthday. Unfortunately, on average 6.7 babies out of 1,000 live births will not live to see their first birthday... in the Wichita community this rate has climbed as high as 19 babies per 1,000 in recent years. In addition, the number of stillborn births in Wichita are higher than the state average. I am attaching several links below to newspaper articles, Sedgwick County Health Department data sheets, and a fact sheet created by the Kansas Blue Ribbon Panel on Infant Mortality that can be shared with fellow Senators if needed.

<http://www.kansasinfantmortality.org/data.htm>

<http://www.kansas.com/news/local/article1062882.html>

<http://www.kansas.com/news/business/health-care/article1129244.html>

<http://kmuw.org/term/infant-mortality>

<http://www.kake.com/home/headlines/Infants-die-at-higher-rate-in-Kansas-than-other-states-285028711.html>

http://sedgwickcounty.org/healthdept/project_imprint.asp

HealthCore Clinic served 178 prenatal patients in 2015 and 35% (62) of these patients were uninsured. We are fighting for every child in our community to have a healthy life beginning with the earliest interventions and preventative screenings while they are still in the womb. Please do not make it more difficult to save lives by implementing policies/laws that do not support the community's concerted effort to provide access to prenatal care and related services as soon as feasible...

You can contact me via email or cell phone (316-871-3544) for more information if needed. Thank you in advance for your consideration!

Sincerely,


Teresa Lovelady, MBA, MSW
President & CEO