

Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Alina Matejkowski and I am a Kansas voter and a student at the University of Kansas. I am writing to you today in opposition of HB2653. The implications of this bill make me feel disconnected from Topeka policymakers as a Kansas constituent. Not only is this an unnecessary response to a non-issue, but it is also a distraction from the challenges currently affecting Kansans that are more deserving of a platform. I want to urge you to see beyond the messaging being pushed forward by Kansas Family Voice and provide context to how pregnancy support in Kansas functions for the women you represent.

Upon discovering I was pregnant at 17, I was never inclined to shake down my boyfriend to pay for my abortion. At 17, I was wondering how I was going to be able to hide a high school pregnancy while sitting in the first chair at my senior orchestra recital. I paid for my doctor's appointments using the money I earned from working at my part time job at a pizza restaurant. And when I was scammed by religious propagandists into unnecessary ultrasounds, paperwork, and talk therapy at a "women's crisis center", it was my best friends driving me back and forth between debate practice and superfluous appointments. Even now I am still the one paying for the costs associated with trauma as a result of teenage pregnancy, while he has been able to move on with little to no associated cost.

To those who may believe our system may encourage abortion as a valid response to pregnancy, I can ease your concerns. The restrictions we have in place already make the process inaccessible, and in my experience are formulated to delay to the point where abortion is no longer a viable option. The support I received during my pregnancy never came from the government, it came from my friends and those in my community I could trust. There is an emotional, psychological, and social cost to pregnancy. It is a personal cost, and therefore one I do not believe should be legislated.

We know from previous elections that Kansans do not want government involvement in their personal decisions. This bill is an underhanded way of undermining our vote to protect abortion in the state of Kansas. Government support for pregnant women should come from the funneling of resources into family support services and foster care. I urge you to see this bill for what it really is: not a form of advocacy for pregnancy support systems, but a dishonest response to our democratically elected decision of bodily autonomy freedom. Please vote in opposition to HB2653.

Thank you for your consideration,
Alina Matejkowski