



TO: Madam Chair Representative Landwehr and Health and Human Services members

FROM: Cindi Lyddon, Executive Director, Grace Place Pregnancy Care Center

February 16, 2024

Dear Rep. Landwehr and committee members,

I support HB 2789.

The current program has been a relief to me as an executive director of a young center. (Founded June 2019) Before this bill I routinely brought in cleaning supplies, diapers, wipes, snacks, and toilet tissue from my house to help the center. With the assistance of this program, I no longer need to dip into my pocket to keep things running.

Change takes time. Now that funds are coming in, we are working toward hiring a Sexual Risk Avoidance teacher to be used by all the schools in the area and teach a Sexual Risk Avoidance curriculum. We have the curriculum but lacked the funds to hire a teacher before! This curriculum is research proven to reduce teen pregnancy by 49%.

We also began the process of hiring a nurse and working toward medical conversion and an ultrasound machine. All of these things are made possible by the wonderful funding of this program! Last year 16% of our clients were abortion minded. Many are now ongoing clients, taking classes, shopping in the boutique and talking about Grace Place to their friends.

This funding impacts the moms, their babies, and other children, as we teach parenting and prenatal skills. As a past teacher, I know what an impact this education is having on the population in our area. In 2023 we were open 12 hours per week, fifty-five babies and their siblings are now being raised with parents who have the parenting skills to raise strong, independent, successful children. Those parents are sharing these new skills with their friends. We are able to be open 40 hours per week now! Imagine what an impact on this next generation that will have!

Thank you for allowing Grace Place an opportunity to provide education and care to moms and babies. Attached are stories from a few of our clients, sharing their experiences.

Please help us to continue providing care to moms and babies in Southwest Kansas by supporting HB 2789.

Thank you,

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