



House Federal and State Affairs
In Support of HB 2687-The Adoption Protection Act
March 20, 2018

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Committee, for reading my testimony. My name is Barbara Saldivar. I am the State Director of Concerned Women for America of Kansas. Concerned Women for America is the largest public policy women's organization in the nation. With about 500,000 members, we are nationally known.

Every child deserves a chance to be raised in a loving family. This bill ensures all child welfare providers are free to continue to work with the state of Kansas to find forever homes for children. Faith-based adoption agencies in Kansas recognize that every child matters and have been rendering services for over 60 years.

Shutting faith-based agencies down limits birth mothers' choices. Restricting the choices of adoption providers for a mother seeking adoption fails that mother and child. The Adoption Protection Act ensures women have the best options for finding a home for their child that is consistent with their beliefs and desires.

As a society, we should support all pregnant women, especially those in difficult circumstances. For some mothers who have chosen to place their child with an adoptive family, having a provider that shares the mother's faith and who will help her find a family of the same faith is an important factor for many women.

Keeping faith-based agencies available to birth mothers protects their religious liberties as well as that of, in this case, non-profit organizations. All Kansans should be free to peacefully live and work consistently with their beliefs without fear of government judgment. We are constitutionally guaranteed the freedom to exercise our religion. We should not have to shut down our operations because of our deeply held religious beliefs.

Thank you again for reading my testimony and please vote favorably for this most important and necessary bill.

Concerned Women for America of Kansas

P.O. Box 8331 | Topeka, KS 66608 | director@kansas.cwfa.org | ks.cwfa.org | 785-260-5659