

PROPONENT TESTIMONY OF PHILLIP COSBY
AMERICAN FAMILY ACTION of KANSAS and MISSOURI, March 2018

PROPONENT: HB 2687 - Adoption Protection Act

Constitutionality: HB 2687 is not unlike the SCOTUS ruling in *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby* where the Supreme Court granted a landmark victory for religious liberty. Finding that individuals do not lose their religious freedom when they open a family business. Deciding that the state cannot compel persons or their business to violate their faith. The Court decided that the Affordable Care Act's requirement of for-profit corporations to supply its employees with contraceptives that go against the owners' beliefs is unconstitutional under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993.

History of Faith: The Christianization of Western Europe brought about the beginning of the end to a pervasive cultural indifference to infanticide in the Western World. While virtually every significant ancient civilization practiced infanticide prior to Christianity, faith motivated persons brought about change through consistent teaching of the inherent value of human life. Early Christians chose not to ignore the plight of "unwanted" babies, who were an undesired gender (usually girls) or had some physical defect. Christians began going out to the sites where infants were left to die and rescuing them. No longer were the least desirable children condemned.

Reasonableness: The recent increase in adoptions among Christians is a worthy step in recovering one of the elements that made early faith based actions of compassion distinct from their culture, affirming of the worth of every human being. Multiple faith based adoption agencies have reported an increase in interest and actual adoptions. The closing of faith based adoption services would result in fewer children finding a loving home, especially among the unfortunate perceived as less desirable.

Maintain the Status Quo: Faith based adoption services are not currently compelled to violate their sincerely held religious belief of placement of children with a married man and women. Likewise secular adoption services are not compelled to conform to state mandated dictates of parental uniformity.

Support HB 2687 and maintain the rights of faith based adoption services.

**Phillip Cosby, Director, 785-571-7214
American Family Action of Ks and Mo**