



# The Kansas Coalition for Life

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## Attempts to Divide Conservatives Over Abortion Zoning Not Working

By Debbie Baker



The oldest political strategy known to man is "Divide and conquer!"

On Monday KCFL issued a News Release: **"ProLife Groups Ask for Zoning Change"** <http://kcfl.net/kcfl/doc/newsr/2013q12-zoning-change.pdf> written by KCFL Chairman, Mark Gietzen. It included numerous reasons why the South Wind Abortion Facility in Wichita, KS, should not be located in a residential neighborhood. One of those reasons is the possibility of gun violence by folks who are not law abiding citizens.

That News Release garnered more attention than any previous KCFL News Release ever, but nothing in the News Release was intended to imply that Gietzen's strong support of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment has in any way faded.

The attempt to divide conservatives between those who are proLife from those who support the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment failed completely because we are one in the same people and we will not be

divided! Furthermore, we do not apologize for being both proLife and, at the same time, pro-Second Amendment! There is nothing incompatible about those two positions in any way.

Gietzen has expressed regret that he was misunderstood by anyone, and issued an apology to any person who honestly misunderstood what was meant by the factual points contained in Monday's News Release.

To clarify, Gietzen said, *"I am the 2<sup>nd</sup> strongest Second Amendment supporter in Sedgwick County, with a documented record to prove that claim; second only to the Honorable Judge Phil Journey, a close friend. Being prolife and a supporter of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment is entirely consistent, because in both cases, the preservation of human life is the paramount concern."*

About a month ago, a Wichita Police officer made an unauthorized request that Gietzen, as Chairman of KCFL, make sure that NO KCFL on-site volunteer be allowed to carry a concealed or non-concealed firearm while on-site at the South Wind Abortion Facility!

Gietzen, who fully supports current state law regarding the lawful carrying of

firearms, refused the directive unless the Wichita Police were willing to (a) disarm all abortion facility personnel, including the untrained security guard, and (b) post an armed officer on-site during all hours of the day while the facility is open, to protect the KCFL on-site volunteers who hand out literature at the gate, offering help to inbound abortion clients. (<http://kcfl.net/kcfl/doc/LPPPA/on-site-handout.pdf>)

So far Wichita Police have not been willing to provide security.

Gietzen intends to formalize his request for continuous police protection for on-site volunteers, until a decision is made to rezone the area so that abortions are not being committed in that residential neighborhood, or until other changes are made to alleviate the tense situation that exists today.

Unreported in all the news stories that followed Monday's News Release is the significant fact that many members of the local proChoice community agree with those in the proLife community that the South Wind facility is located in a bad place.

For example, a Wichita citizen who is a local low-level office holder and political activist, who spent most of her life supporting a woman's so-called right to abortion, sent an e-mail to Gietzen ending with: *"I totally agree that an abortion clinic located in a residential area shouldn't be there!!!"*

Her point is not that she does not want abortions available in Wichita; it is that the South Wind Facility should move to a non-residential part of town. That is what zoning rules are all about.

Gietzen believes that with both proLife and proChoice people in agreement that South Wind is located in a bad area, it's not a matter of "IF" abortions will be zoned out of that neighborhood; it's just a matter of when!

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