

Feb. 13, 2023

To: KS Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee % Donola.Fairbanks@Senate.ks.gov.

From: Carol Williamson, ksscienceteacher@gmail.com

Re: Opponent Testimony - Written Only for Feb. 15, 2023 Hearing on Senate Bill 5

Chair Gossage, Vice Chair Erickson, Ranking Minority Member Pettey, and Members of the Kansas Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee:

I oppose SB 5. Unlike some who provide testimony to the Legislature on the issue of abortion, I am a lifelong Kansan. In considering this bill that would limit a woman's right to a medical abortion through telemedicine, let us consider...

- The Kansas Supreme Court upheld in 2019 the right of Kansas women to an abortion.
- In the August 2, 2022 primary election, Kansans soundly rejected an amendment to the Kansas Constitution that would not guarantee the right to abortion.
- In the 2022 Kansas Speaks Survey, a state-wide survey, conducted by the Docking Institute of Public Affairs at Fort Hays State University, 67.4% responded either agreeing or strongly agreeing that "When it comes to abortion, women are in a better position than politicians to make their own choices about whether to get an abortion."
- Telemedicine for medical abortion is safe and effective. *The International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology* reports in "Telemedicine for Medical Abortion: A Systemic Review" 2019 <https://doi.org/10.1111/1471-0528.15684>
"Rates relevant to success rate, safety, and acceptability outcomes for women $\leq 10+0$ weeks' gestation (GW) ranged from 0 to 1.9% for continuing pregnancy, 93.8 to 96.4% for complete abortion, 0.9 to 19.3% for surgical evacuation, 0 to 0.7% for blood transfusion, 0.07 to 2.8% for hospitalisation, 64 to 100% for satisfaction, 0.2 to 2.3% for dissatisfaction, and 90 to 98% for recommendation of the service. Rates in studies also including women $>10+0$ GW ranged from 1.3 to 2.3% for continuing pregnancy, 8.5 to 20.9% for surgical evacuation, and 90 to 100% for satisfaction. Qualitative studies on acceptability showed no negative impacts for women or providers."

I also oppose SB 5 because it seeks to upset the balance of power in state government by further limiting the Governor's power to act in an emergency.

The Kansas Constitution does not allow the Legislature to limit medical abortion access through telemedicine. The people don't want the Legislature to limit medical abortion access through telemedicine. The Legislature should not further limit the Governor's power in an emergency. Please oppose SB 5.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,
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