

HB 2062 Opposition Testimony (Written-Only)

Testimony before the Senate Committee on Judiciary

NAME: Joseph Nicholas

TITLE: Private Citizen

BILL NUMBER: HB 2062

PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: Opponent

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: Written Only

DATE OF HEARING: February 27, 2025

Chairperson Warren and Members of the Committee,

I urge you to oppose HB 2062. While it is presented as a child support bill, its true intent is far more insidious: establishing fetal personhood in Kansas law. By allowing courts to order retroactive child support dating back to conception, this bill effectively grants legal recognition to a fetus as a separate person, which could have sweeping consequences beyond financial support.

This bill is not about helping pregnant people - Kansas already has strong child support laws. Instead, HB 2062 lays the groundwork for future attacks on reproductive rights. Similar laws in other states have been used to restrict abortion access, criminalize pregnancy outcomes, and create legal confusion around medical care. Kansans overwhelmingly voted in 2022 to protect abortion rights, yet this bill disregards that mandate by pushing a backdoor strategy to undermine those rights.

HB 2062 could also create dangerous legal uncertainty. If a fetus is considered a legal person for financial matters, what stops the next step - using that recognition to restrict reproductive healthcare or even prosecute pregnancy losses? This bill opens the door to unintended consequences that could put pregnant Kansans at legal risk.

HB 2062 also creates a troubling financial burden by attempting to make someone fiscally responsible for healthcare expenses before paternity can even be legally established. This is not only legally unsound but also fundamentally unfair. Establishing paternity is a critical legal step that ensures financial obligations are assigned correctly. By forcing alleged fathers to pay expenses retroactively, without due process, this bill risks wrongly imposing financial and legal burdens on individuals who may later be proven not to be the biological parent.

Moreover, real support for pregnant people doesn't come from political maneuvers like this. If lawmakers truly cared about supporting families, they would expand access to prenatal care,

affordable childcare, and paid family leave - rather than using financial obligations as a Trojan horse for an extreme agenda.

Kansans have spoken loudly in defense of reproductive freedom. HB 2062 is a deceptive attempt to erode that freedom, and I urge you to reject it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Joseph Nicholas
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