

Savannah Jurado

PRIVATE CITIZEN

HB 2062

Written Only

OPPONENT

2/27/2025

Chairman Warren and Members of the Committee, thank you so much for giving me time to share my thoughts on HB 2062 with you today. My name is Savannah Jurado and I am a voter in Douglas County. I am writing today to strongly encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2062.

Firstly, this bill aims to establish fetal "personhood" which is quite frankly ridiculous and ignorant to statistics and science regarding pregnancy, gender, and miscarriage. We cannot establish personhood for a fetus for a multitude of reasons, but the most important is the potential of the baby not making it to full term and birth. There are many risk factors during a pregnancy that could result in a loss of a fetus, and at no fault of the mother. What we know statistically about miscarriage is that it occurs in approximately 15-20% of pregnancies annually. There are many other risk factors that could lead to a medically necessary abortion. This bill does not set up the framework or structure needed for child support payments for pregnancies that end in miscarriage, stillbirth, or abortion.

I think we should look at the reason this bill has been introduced, and that fabric that this bill is trying to weave for future attempts at anti-abortion legislation. This bill attempts to codify personhood language further into Kansas law to advance the anti-abortion agenda. I think this is clear in the fact that medical costs and pregnancy-related costs would be covered for the mother EXCEPT "elective abortion". To truly support pregnant people we must support their rights and bodily autonomy when it comes to ALL of their medical decisions. This bill is disguised as positive and productive when it secretly attempts to undermine the rights and well-being of pregnant people in the state of Kansas.

Secondly, I think we also need to inspect the idea that fetal personhood would be established at the date of conception. Scientifically, we know that all embryos start out as female, and only later does the sex of the fetus change permanently. This would mean that if we establish personhood at date of conception, then all births would be classified as a female baby whether or not the child is born with male, female, or intersex genitalia. This is why this bill's introduction is blatantly ignorant. All of the information I have provided in this message is scientifically

backed, and can be found by a simple google search. Which goes to show that no research was done in the preparation or submittal process of this bill. How embarrassing.

If we really and truly want to support pregnant people and their health and well-being during pregnancy, then we need to focus on supporting and funding benefits like Medi-care, WIC, and food stamps. These programs have historically helped financially support pregnant people, and the framework has already been established and proven successful throughout time. Let's provide pregnant people with the real resources they need, and let them make their own decisions regarding their health and their bodies.

Thank you again to the committee for allowing me the time today to hear my thoughts on this bill, and I strongly encourage you all to vote NO on the passage of HB 2062. Thank you.