

Austin Vawter

Private Citizen

HB 2062

Written Only

Opponent

2/27/2025

Chairman Warren and Members of the Committee, thank you for letting me share my thoughts on HB 2062. My name is Austin Vawter and I am a voter in Wichita. I am writing to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2062.

This bill is clearly aimed to circumvent the will of the Kansas people who overwhelmingly voted in favor of the right to an abortion in 2022 via the direct ballot measure. While the wording of this bill is aimed around what I think is a reasonable stance on child support, this bill's real aim seems to be in securing a definition of an unborn fetus/child as a person and would allow for infringements on Kansas citizens' abortion rights.

I know many of you reading this may have anti-abortion sentiments, however the Kansas people clearly support a Pro-Choice viewpoint as we saw in 2022 with 59% of Kansans voting overwhelmingly to protect abortion access. Trying to find ways such as this bill to circumvent these results is undemocratic and would be a costly decision for many of your hopes for re-election.

I don't think it's foolish to predict a blue-wave coming in the 2026 midterms. Even a state as red as Kansas saw Democrat success in 2018 and 2022 which is how we ended up with Governor Laura Kelley who is currently at her height of popularity with a 62% approval rating. Not only is this because of a large backlash in national politics, but it is also because of her direct veto actions against our statehouse.

If you choose to pursue this bill in a sly attempt to circumvent the will of the people, I think you may be in for a rude awakening in 2026 as Kansans do not like having their voices clearly heard only to be overturned by an unpopular House and Senate.

Please vote NO on HB 2062 to uphold the will of your constituents. Thank you.