

Jonathan Smith

Private Citizen

HB 2062

Written Only

Opponent

2/25/2025

Chairman Warren and Members of the Committee, thank you for reading my testimony today. My name is Jonathan smith, and I am a voter in Topeka / Shawnee County. I am writing to encourage you and your colleagues to vote NO on HB 2062

I wish I could write to you today to tell you how much I appreciate that you are supporting women, or families, or children, but I cannot. I'm embarrassed. I'm embarrassed that a bill being heard in front of the legislature of my home state of Kansas is trying to sneak weird fetal personhood bills onto the floor under the guise of protecting women.

The bill states that an unborn child is a "living individual organism of the species homo sapiens, in utero, at any stage of gestation from fertilization to birth."

I wish I could write to you today, from a factual scientific perspective, but this bill was written based on opinions and feelings, and you are likely going to pass it or not based on your opinions and feelings.

I wish I could remind you that every thing that you are: every memory, every feeling, every emotion, every thought that has ever existed in your mind rests in the frontal lobe of your brain. Synapses developed, fired, aligned, and locked in over decades in the many folds of the front of your brain.

Without your frontal lobe, you don't exist. Your memories, your thoughts, feelings, and emotions lost amongst the friends and strangers that you've interacted with over the years. Without your frontal lobe, you are an unthinking, unfeeling, hunk of meat, perhaps existing on instinct alone,

but you wouldn't be YOU any longer. Not in any real meaningful sense of the word, not to any of your friends and loved ones. That person only exists in the front lobe of your brain.

Your frontal lobe doesn't begin developing until the 20th week of gestation, and doesn't really reach substantial gyri and sulci (the folds of your brain) until week 24 of a pregnancy.

Until that point, It's merely an unthinking, unfeeling mass of cells, forging forward using only its DNA to guide it through mitosis and development. It has no thoughts, it has no feelings, it has no memories before that part of the brain finishes developing.

Everything that makes that baby who it will be does not even START to happen until week 20. So for this bill to just arbitrarily decide that fertilization is the true start of a life is a joke. There are so many thousands of variables that have to fall neatly into place over the next several months to turn those cells into a thinking, feeling, loving life.

This bill is what happens when people let their feelings and opinions usurp facts and reality.

Please vote NO on HB 2062, for the sake of science, logic, and reason.

Here are some of my sources to cite:

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9224903/>

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7808399/>

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony today. I hope you found it helpful in deciding how to vote. If you never planned on reading my testimony, so be it, as long as you vote NO on HB 2062. Thank you.