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To: Members of the House Federal and State Affairs Committee
FR: Kari Ann Rinker, M.P.A.
State Coordinator, Kansas NOW
RE: HB 2598, Opponent Testimony

Kansas NOW submits this testimony in strong opposition to HB 2598.

This bill was introduced just six days ago and is 68 pages in length, leaving little time for complete and thorough analysis by proponents of reproductive rights and freedom. Just to name a few of its issues...it alters current tax codes, needlessly expands the Women's Right to Know materials, even requiring physicians to recite patently false information, prohibits and creates causes of legal action, and includes several provisions that will be cause for litigation. Here are just a few observations about this expansive waste of tax payer time, energy and resources.

- *Sections 1-7 Dubbed the "no taxpayer funding for abortion act", fails to include any exceptions for rape, incest or irreversible physical impairment to a major bodily function". The women and families already suffering from difficult circumstances will suffer further by being penalized financially by the state of Kansas.*
- *New Section 8 (b) (1) creates a new civil cause of action for the family members of women who have abortions. This treats women as if they are not capable of making decisions regarding their personal health care and their individual prerogative to litigate on their own behalf. It simply demeans women.*
- *New section 9, pg 3- This section is an obvious and direct attack on Planned Parenthood's medically accurate, age appropriate human sexuality education programs. Abortion remains legal health care and discrimination against this organization for one piece of their overall women's healthcare mission should not be legislatively pursued. The recent public outcry surrounding The Komen Foundation's temporary defunding of Planned Parenthood proves that the public does not support this kind of obvious, unnecessary and unwarranted discrimination against a reputable provider of health care to low income women.*
- *New section 10, pg 3- This section is an invitation for anti-choice physicians to violate the Hippocratic oath. It defines and prohibits civil action for a claim of "wrongful life" or "wrongful birth" and would allow for a physician to willfully keep information about serious genetic or congenital abnormalities from women in an attempt to force them to keep a*

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pregnancy to term. It takes away a legal option for financial recourse from a woman who may be providing costly lifetime care for a child born with a severe fetal anomaly. An Oklahoma court has enjoined similar legislation

- *Pg 6- Section 13 (b)- Defines and specifically excludes "mental or emotional functions" from "bodily function" exception for post 21 week abortions to prohibit suicide from being a consideration for a woman's overall health. The World Health Organization defines health as "A state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease". KSA 40-2 requires parity in insurance coverage for treatment of mental health in insurance plans. The fact that this legislation delegitimizes mental health for pregnant women contradicts the spirit of existing Kansas statutes that place a high regard for mental health and puts suicidal women at grave risk.*
- *Section 15 (3), pg 10- This particular line of the expansion upon the women's right to know materials is particularly egregious, in that it would again compromise a physician's Hippocratic oath. It does this by requiring that doctors give false information to their patients. Quite simply, it calls for physicians to lie to their patients by informing them of a nonexistent link between breast cancer and abortion. This section creates yet another cause for costly litigation for the state of Kansas. A South Dakota court has enjoined an anti-choice law within that state, in part because of the inclusion of this false link between abortion and breast cancer in their woman's "right to know" materials.*

From the National Cancer Institute:

"In February 2003, the National Cancer Institute (NCI) convened a workshop of over 100 of the world's leading experts who study pregnancy and breast cancer risk. Workshop participants reviewed existing population-based, clinical, and animal studies on the relationship between pregnancy and breast cancer risk, including studies of induced and spontaneous abortions. They concluded that having an abortion or miscarriage does not increase a woman's subsequent risk of developing breast cancer."

From the journal Lancet, one of the World's leading general medical journals:

"In 2004, the journal Lancet published a meta-analysis of 53 studies involving 83,000 women with breast cancer. It found that these women were no more likely to have had a miscarriage or abortion earlier in life than women without breast cancer."

In this submitted testimony, I have barely touched upon the monstrosities that are included within this legislation. Sixty-eight pages of abortion legislation of this detail does not happen by accident, it takes an enormous amount of legislative time, energy and resources to write, draft and research. It has been scheduled for three full days for its consideration.

The women of Kansas only wish that as much legislative fascination, would be found within more pressing matters...such as caring for the living, breathing children in our state who desperately need social supports and education that is being cut, often by these very same fascinated "pro-life" legislators each and every day of the 2012 legislative session.