

2 – 20 – 2013

The Honorable Arlen Siegfried

House Standing Committee on Federal and State Affairs

Re: Opposition to HB 2253 - Abortion; prohibiting funding for abortion services; amending late-term abortion and woman's-right-to-know statutes

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I write to you today with growing concerns of the future of my health and security residing in the state of Kansas. The most concerning piece of the bill is in regards to the information that an abortion provider must tell a woman before receiving her abortion. Again and again the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American Cancer Society have denied claims that abortion causes breast cancer. However, there have been studies that show women who do not have children have higher rates of breast cancer than those who do have children. Something I learned from my basic statistics course this week is that **correlation does not imply causation**. Also the doctor would be instructed to tell the woman that her fetus can feel pain. Again, there is no credible source that agrees with this statement. It would make a mockery of the profession of a physician and their Hippocratic Oath to provide false information that only serves to instill fear in the mind of a woman.

Proud to live in a country that supports freedom of religion, I find the rhetoric that a “human life begins at fertilization” to be marginalizing the majority of the population of Kansas that would disagree with this statement. If this statement is to be included in the bill, it will negate any moral, ethical, and philosophical conversations and changes that our state is currently experiencing. It would also be in conflict with *Roe v. Wade*, if we attempt to artificially define the moment that human life really begins, nobody on earth has the answer to this question. To be able to define when life really begins is not a right afforded to the government of this nation. It is a deeply personal definition and should not be infringed upon by a secular government.

With growing costs of living and healthcare combined, it’s a real concern for women my age that we would not be able to look towards our government in a time of need. Already being greatly affected by the *Hyde Amendment*, it would cause an undue burden on women to impose even higher taxes and more restrictions of federal and state funding to help pay for a very much needed health care service. Abortion and contraceptive coverage **should** be included in insurance, private and public. These services are within the realm of women’s health care and it is discriminatory to not permit funds to be used as such. To offer a “rider” on insurance plans is utterly ridiculous; no woman plans nor expects to have an abortion.

Also included in this bill is a restriction of abortion providers to provide STI and sexual health information in schools, i.e., Planned Parenthood. Planned Parenthood was the **only** way I learned about sexual health at school. It’s naïve to think that all parents talk to their children about such matters, and that leaves us young people to turn to our friends, TV, and the internet. If we truly want a healthy state and a healthy future generation, then it is imperative to allow Planned Parenthood, and other health clinic who provide the **complete** range of women’s health services to be able to disseminate this much needed information to our children.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in opposition to HB 2253

Amanda Schulze

President of the Commission on the Status of Women at the University of Kansas