

House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

March 26, 2013

Testimony of the South Wind Women's Center In Opposition To HB 2324

By Bob Eye

You are now considering joining North Dakota for the earliest and most extreme abortion ban legislation in the country through HB 2324. HB 2324 would make the vast majority of abortions illegal after the point at which a fetal heart tone can be detected—as early as six weeks, a time before many women even learn they are pregnant. The bill is patently unconstitutional and dangerous to women.

We ask you to reject HB 2324. Kansas politicians are now leading what appears to be a nationwide competition among anti-choice extremists to see who can do the most to strip women of their dignity and autonomy and endanger their lives.

HB 2324 is nothing short of a frontal assault on the U.S. Constitution, 40 years of Supreme Court precedent, and the health and fundamental rights of women. The U.S. Supreme Court has consistently held—first in *Roe v. Wade* and again in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*—that states cannot ban abortion prior to viability. Forty years of Supreme Court precedent clearly anchors every woman's fundamental right to reproductive choice in the U.S. Constitution.

We strongly urge the gentlewomen and gentlemen of this committee to protect the rights and health of the women of Kansas by voting against this dangerous legislation.

Earlier this month the Governor of Arkansas vetoed a similar bill because it was clearly unconstitutional. In his public statement he announced his reason for the veto: "In short, because it would impose a ban on a woman's right to choose an elective, nontherapeutic abortion well before viability." We believe that HB 2324 – like the Arkansas bill – "blatantly contradicts the United States Constitution, as interpreted by the Supreme Court."

We strongly urge the Kansas legislature to demonstrate an equal measure of respect for Kansas women's constitutional rights and vote against HB 2324.