

March 3, 2015

Dear House Federal and State Affairs Committee Members,

I am writing in support of the bills currently under consideration in the Kansas legislature regarding Dilation & Evacuation (SB 95 or HB 2187). I support these bills because they restrict elective abortion to less than approximately 12-14 weeks gestation. The farther along a pregnancy is at the time of an abortion, the higher the likelihood of complications arising during the procedure. I have seen the ramifications of later gestation terminations, including fetal parts left in the uterus, septic infections, and perforations of the uterus leading to more surgery and complications. As a medical professional who does offer D&E for the patient that presents with a fetal demise, I recognize that the larger the fetus, the greater the potential for complications.

My only concern with the bills is some apparent ambiguity regarding how it will be determined that a termination was performed for a reason other than the health of the mother. As a physician who has had to perform terminations to preserve the life and health of my patient, I have certainly taken great care to seek expert opinions and examine all other avenues before proceeding. I would hope that future legislation will more clearly define "health of the mother," especially when bills such as these make it a criminal matter to do an abortion otherwise.

I appreciate your consideration of these bills. Restricting elective abortion is a step toward greater protections for the patients in our state.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with questions, or if I can assist you in any way in this legislation or others that involve the care of women.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Hague", written in dark ink.

Melissa J. Hague, MD

Wichita, KS

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