



**TESTIMONY OF MICAH W. KUBIC
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(WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY)**

IN OPPOSITION TO SB 95

KANSAS HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS

MARCH 9, 2015

The American Civil Liberties Union of Kansas works to preserve and strengthen the constitutional liberties, including to access reproductive health care, of every person in Kansas. The ACLU of Kansas opposes SB 95 because it raises serious constitutional concerns, and is an unwarranted interference in a woman's most personal, private medical decisions. The bill substitutes a political agenda for the expertise of health care professionals. We must trust each woman to make private health care decisions along with her family and the expertise of her doctor.

SB 95 criminalizes safe, legal health care options for a woman who needs to end a pregnancy. This bill could ban some abortions as early as thirteen (13) weeks, running contrary to more than four decades of Supreme Court precedent prohibiting states from banning abortion prior to viability. *See e.g., Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113 (1973); *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, 505 U.S. 833 (1992), *Stenberg v. Carhart*, 530 U.S. 914 (2000).

The ACLU of Kansas strongly urges this committee to vote no on SB 95, not only for the aforementioned constitutional infirmities, but because the bill places politics above a woman's health. We simply cannot know each woman's circumstances; but we do know that health care professionals should be able to provide the best care for each individual patient. Instead, this bill would interfere with a health care professional's expertise and impose politics in place of expert judgment. The bill would infringe upon the relationship between a doctor and a patient, preventing the doctor from providing health care appropriate to the individual circumstances faced by a patient. In difficult circumstances, a woman deserves the best medical care available – and the freedom to make decisions about that care, in partnership with a doctor – not unnecessary restrictions on that care.

By criminalizing safe legal health care, this bill is a distraction focused on the wrong priority and an unwarranted intrusion into the personal health care decisions of women. The ACLU of Kansas therefore urges this committee to reject SB 95.