

House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

March 13, 2017

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee,

My name is Debra Wade, M.D. I write to you today and implore you to vote against HB 2319. This bill seeks to further stigmatize physicians who provide abortion care in a way that jeopardizes the patient/physician relationship, adds further obstacles to patients accessing care without a proven and substantial health benefit, and impedes upon the Kansas Board of Healing Arts as the governing body for best practices of physicians.

I am a licensed physician in the state of Kansas. I also live out of state and practice where I live. My residence has no bearing on my ability to provide health care to my patients. I see no benefit for any physician, regardless of their specialty or practice, to divulge whether they are a resident of the state or not. I'm not being asked to disclose this information to my patients - or any of this information at their appointment, for that matter- and see no benefit for any physician to do so.

What I do see as is an attempt to compromise the patient/physician relationship. I also see mandating disclosure of whether a physician has malpractice insurance, when a doctor received his or her degree, and how long the doctor has been employed at any given facility as attempts to cause undue concern or question on the doctor by the patient.

Overall, and referring to the Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt precedence set this past year, these amendments are in violation of the law and mandates set forth by this decision.

It is the burden of the state to prove there is a medical benefit to these amendments, of which I see none. In fact, by adding these mandates, there is further obstacle placed with no medical benefit whatsoever. If there were benefits, these disclosures would be asked of all physicians. The Kansas Board of Healing Arts already provides public and free access to all of this information, and patients are able to find out the information they choose by visiting the KBHA website. It is unnecessary to mandate physicians to disclose this information at their time of service.

There are a number of issues that need attention and provide support to the people of Kansas that aren't in violation of federal precedent. Understand this bill will surely face litigation and cost the state money it cannot afford to spend.

Again, I urge you to vote against passing this bill out of committee. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Debra Wade, M.D

Debra Wade MD
3/9/2017