

**Testimony of Nigel Morton**  
**Kansas State Organizer**  
**URGE: Unite for Reproductive and Gender Equity**  
**Opposing HCR 5004**  
**Federal and State Affairs Committee**  
**Written only**  
**Thursday, March 21, 2019**

Thank you Chair Barker and esteemed members of the committee for the opportunity to present my testimony.

I am Nigel Morton, the Kansas State Organizer for Unite for Reproductive and Gender Equity or URGE for short. My testimony speaks on behalf of young constituents in Kansas, from ages 18 to 30. Today, I firmly ask you vote against House Concurrent Resolution Number 5004. The referendum that HCR 5004 calls for will cause harm to young marginalized communities, and is not inline with Kansas values.

A 2014 survey by The Guttmacher Institute found 60% of abortion patients were in their 20s, and those between 18 and 20 made up 12% of abortion patients. This means that 72% of abortion patients are aged between 18 and 29. Additionally, young Kansans do not support a constitutional amendment eliminating the right to an abortion. A survey done just February last year by Public Policy Polling found only 38% of Kansans support a constitutional amendment outlawing abortion. In plain terms, these numbers mean mostly young people are getting abortions, and a minority of Kansans support even the idea of a constitutional amendment outlawing abortion.

As we know from the days before Roe v. Wade, restricting safe and legal abortion access only increases the rate of deaths from unsafe abortions. Leaving young people without the access to safe and legal abortion is dangerous. Eliminating access to abortion, as the referendum called for by HCR 5004 seeks to do, disproportionately affects marginalized communities including young women of color, young LGBTQ people, and young low-income people. This violence against these communities is not inline with Kansas values.

I am Nigel Morton, the Kansas State Organizer for Unite for Reproductive and Gender Equity, and I firmly ask you, our Representatives, to vote against House Concurrent Resolution 5004.