

Proponent Testimony for The *Value Them Both* Constitutional Amendment for Life

Joint Senate Judiciary and House Federal and State Committee

Ryan J. Strahler

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Dear Chairman Barker, Chairman Wilborn and Members of the Joint Committee

Unlimited abortion hurts women and children. It is not a Kansas Value. I urge you to support the Value Them Both Amendment to the Kansas Constitution. Kansans deserve the right to vote on this issue:

It has been my experience that the ability to freely abort a baby leads to the dissolution of the family cell. My brother and his girlfriend conceived a child out of ignorance; in the heat of the moment. He didn't break the news to me until she was two months along, and by then the gravity of their reality was weighing on them. While I looked around for family support and state-aid to help, they decided that the child was too sudden of a change for them, and they drove to Kansas City for an abortion. At that point, their three-year relationship fell apart almost immediately, and they left each other.

In general, limiting the ability to abort on rash decision curbs the immediate-satisfaction prevalent in our youth today. In terms of personal accountability, my aforementioned experience trying to help my brother and his girlfriend proved to me that by allowing an abortion in any situation gives youth a way out of consequence for their decisions. This isn't a behavior that I feel should be allowable under our interpretation of the law.

It is for this reason, and my family's grief when coping with the loss of this future family member, that I support the Value Them Both Amendment.

Thank you for this opportunity to voice myself and for all your work for the people of Kansas.

Respectfully,

Ryan J. Strahler