

**House Federal and State Affairs Committee
Kansas Senate Judiciary Committee**

9:00 AM, Room 346-S

Testimony Opposing HCR 5019

Glen and Marty Armbruster

Tuesday, 21 January 2020

Dear Chairman Barker, Chairman Wilborn and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in opposition to HCR 5019.

In 1972, I was serving in the Navy and attending a school in Dam Neck, VA. My wife, Marty, was pregnant with our second child, and we were looking forward to the day he would be born.

This was before Roe V. Wade, and it was also well before routine ultrasound diagnostics. We had no idea our baby had Potter's Syndrome. In the stark, Spartan waiting room there were a half dozen or so women waiting to deliver. Our turn arrived, the baby was delivered, but he made no sound. The medical team quickly shielded him from our view rushed him out of the delivery room. He lived for approximately 3 minutes before he suffocated to death due to his abnormality. His lungs were a solid mass, making his lungs unable to properly function.

The ensuing several weeks were a nightmare. We could not afford to transport him back to Kansas. Having to deal with things like the birth certificate and death certificate was an emotionally draining experience. Like I said before, there was no access to ultrasound check-ups when my wife was pregnant, and the option of a safe and legal abortion was off of the table. I couldn't help but think that if we had known of his condition by a routine ultrasound appointment, and abortion had been legal in those days, it would certainly have been the right decision to make. It would have saved our heartache, but perhaps more importantly it would have saved our son the horrible experience of suffocation at birth.

Aside from that, it was a very rough pregnancy that made me fear our marriage wouldn't survive another one. It was five years later when we finally decided to try for another child.

With all that in mind, I was delighted to find a volunteer job for a while at the off-site Trust Women offices working on mailings and occasionally editing text. The staff there was committed and caring. I was proud to volunteer my time to such a worthy organization.