

Kansas Legislature House Federal and State Affairs Committee and Senate Judiciary Committee.

Bruce Garren, Personhood Kansas Director

January 21, 2020

In opposition to House Concurrent Resolution 5019 and Senate Concurrent Resolution 1613 Value Them Both Amendment.

First let me say that Personhood Kansas supports an amendment to the Kansas State Constitution that recognizes the human rights of the unborn child in Kansas. We are in complete support of an amendment that guarantees the inalienable rights, equal protection, and due process of the law of every human being. If we believed that the proposed amendment was written to accomplish that end, we would be the first to support it. We are sorry to say that it doesn't include unborn children in the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness which is supposed to be guaranteed to all human beings by Section 1 of the Kansas Bill of Rights.

This amendment marginalizes all human life by introducing into the Kansas constitution legislative discretion as to when innocent humans may be legally killed. In the particular case of the unborn child, this amendment creates a separate basis to keep abortion legal in Kansas if and when the federal right to abortion is overturned, ignored or defied. Finally, we object to this amendment being referred to as a "Value Them Both Amendment." Truly this amendment values neither the woman, who knows that even a licensed abortion still means death for her baby, nor the preborn child whose human rights are being taken away.

The amendment that would truly "value them both" is what the Kansas House and Senate already have before them, specifically, House Concurrent Resolution 5004 and Senate Concurrent Resolution 1604. This is the Human Life Amendment which reads, "*Recognizing the authority of the state of Kansas to exercise its police power and its sovereign right to adopt individual liberties in the constitution of the state of Kansas more expansive than those conferred by the constitution of the United States, the state of Kansas shall hereby guarantee the inalienable rights, equal protection and due process of the law of every human being from the beginning of the biological development of that human being, including fertilization.*"

Don't leave the right to life to legislative discretion. Guarantee the right to life for all.