

Date of Testimony: Friday, January 17, 2020
Bill Number: HCR 5019
Testimony by: Traci Klein
In Opposition Testimony: Written Only

Dear Chairman Barker and members of the House Federal and State Affairs Committee:

I am writing to voice my opposition to HCR5019.

Because Kansans value both women and children, I believe you should value the ability of those women to make decisions for themselves. These women that you value so much have a right to decide when and where to make their own healthcare choices, with the guidance of healthcare providers and any family, community, or faith leader they choose to consult.

Because Kansans value both women and children, you should know that the right to choose impacts not only the physical and mental health of the pregnant person, but also the economic health of that person and everyone dependent on them.

Because Kansans value both women and children, I expect you understand that those same women and children are covered by the decisions of the Supreme Court, both at the state and federal level, which have already addressed this issue.

Because Kansans value both women and children, you should consider promoting evidence-based family planning and increasing access to contraception instead of limiting women's bodily autonomy. You should spend your time and resources improving Kansas's struggling foster care system, because those children are worthy and valuable and need our support. You should work on legislation that protects women and children from domestic abuse, increases the economic outlook for family's struggling with poverty or food insecurity, and actually demonstrates that you value women and children throughout their lives, not just while a woman is pregnant.

Because I value women, children, anyone who chooses to raise a family, and those people who wish to be part of a family, I oppose HCR5019 and any other legislation you come up with to try to insert legislation into our right to choose what happens to our own bodies.

Thank you,
Traci Klein, Overland Park, KS