

House Federal and State Affairs Committee

Kansas Senate Judiciary Committee

9:00 AM, Room 346-S

Testimony Opposing HCR 5019

Shelly Moore

Tuesday, January 21, 2020

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

Thank you for the opportunity to express my opposition to HCR 5019.

I'm writing this story for my sister, Diana, who had three abortions. Her reproductive life has not been smooth sailing. She also had a miscarriage, after her two wonderful boys were born.

You might wonder, Why 3?

First you need to know that our family supports abortion rights for anyone who has no other choice.

In 1994, Diana was diagnosed with a Glioblastoma brain tumor. Her sons were in elementary school at the time. The doctor's prognosis was a life expectancy of maybe 9 months. She was first operated on by a now retired, neurologist who was supposed to remove the tumor. He didn't. He did cut a big bone flap out of her skull and took a small biopsy. The bone flap became infected and so she got osteomyelitis, an infection in the bone. So instead of starting chemo or radiation she had to recover from the infection first. She required IV meds administered by a nurse twice a day in her home. A disruption to her family life to say the least.

Her children saw her have seizures, many times. They saw the needles and IVs, they went to appointments, all of which were over five hours away and to get radiation therapy, five days a week. When they couldn't be with her or go with her, they worried and worried she might not come back each time she left. The youngest Always wanted the last kiss, through the car window as she was driven away. He stayed with her body at the gravesite till they lowered the casket.

While Diana was going through all the treatments, she was living! She had a fiancé and when she got pregnant she was thrilled, but the doctors said her baby would have a 90% chance of having birth defects, may be blind and could even be born dead. The pregnancy could kill her because of all the meds and radiation she received.

Yes, she was on birth control. Yes, she still took it.

Unfortunately, it didn't work because of the other meds she had to take. She wanted more kids, she loved her boys above everything in her life!

This was not an easy decision for my sister or for her family. Her fiancé left her. She felt alone, she was dying, she was heartbroken and she was leaving behind her previous babies.

I have never needed to have an abortion. I do not believe I would if faced with an unplanned pregnancy, but I do understand that abortion is the only solution in some cases. I also still believe that it is the woman's body and she should be the only person making that decision.

Removing the rights of women to make decisions for themselves will not get rid of abortion. It will only lead people to use a "back alley" as they used to say.

The legal right to have an abortion or other options, should be every woman's choice. Not just for those rich enough to access abortion. This is the modern era. We are not back in Victorian times when abortions were a cause for shame and secrets. A woman's body is hers and hers alone!