

Dear Members of the House Federal and State Affairs and Senate Judiciary Committees,

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. Although I have not personally had an abortion, the issue is very important to me.

One of the most important duties of elected officials is to protect the rights of citizens. Since *Roe v. Wade*, the right to abortion has been federally protected. It is not, as of now, even mentioned in the state constitution. By adding in this amendment, we would be opening the right to abortion to restrictions. If this amendment is passed, I have no doubt that advocacy groups will push through bans and unnecessary regulations that will join the flurry of other abortion “bans” across the country. Kansas has more important areas to focus its time and resources than fighting the Supreme Court on an already established right.

Beyond the fact that the proposed amendment seeks to limit the rights of Kansans, it is unnecessary. Abortions cannot be funded using public funds. Whether you personally agree with the morality of abortions or not, this is an intensely personal issue that each woman should be able to work through on her own, with the support and input of her friends and family, doctors, and faith leaders. Politicians in Topeka should not have anything to do with this. As I understand it, Republicans pride themselves on endeavoring for a smaller government that interferes as little as possible in the lives of citizens. Please do not let your desire for a small government and strongly protected rights only apply to issues that affect you.

I would like to end by proposing that if policy makers are truly morally opposed to abortion and want to take concrete steps to end it, that they work to reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies through reproductive education, improve the adoption system, and increase benefits and funding for new mothers (like SNAP). No woman gets an abortion “for fun”. Eliminating the reasons women get abortions is much more effective than passing legislation that will be challenged and eventually struck down as the Supreme Court reinforces the right to abortion.

Thank you again for reading my testimony. I hope you will take it into consideration.

Sincerely,

Lindsey
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