

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

I'm writing this to strongly encourage you to vote against HCR 5019/SCR 1613. I find it appalling the way this amendment is being rushed through this process without giving citizens adequate time to understand the bill and provide input. A bill should not be introduced, and citizens given less than 24 hours to get written testimony sent to the legislature. It makes it clear that this is being rushed to allow as little transparency as possible and with as little input as possible.

The Kansas legislature needs to get out of the business of trying to legislate a woman's health care decisions. If the intent is to lower the number of abortions in Kansas, we have examples from many other states that show providing comprehensive sex education and low/no cost birth control has a much larger impact. Various legislators may state that this bill doesn't explicitly ban abortions, but the Senate leadership and the various conservative members of both houses have made it clear that is the goal. Pass this amendment and then put new abortion restrictions in place.

It's frankly gross that the authors of this bill explicitly state that they want to ensure they can retain the right to restrict access to abortions EVEN in the event the life of the mother is at risk or in the event of rape or incest. Why does the Kansas legislature want to be able to retain the right to force a child that's been raped by their relative to continue a pregnancy? Or why is a mother's life worth less than a fetus in the womb? The value system of some members of these governing bodies is very warped.

We need the Kansas legislature to get to business working for all Kansans, not trying to legislate their religious convictions and taking the right to bodily autonomy away from half the population. Please vote NO on both of these bills.

Brett Hoedl