

January 17, 2020

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Dear Members of the Kansas Senate,

I am writing to you in opposition to HCR 5019. Unfortunately I am unable to attend the hearings on Tuesday, January 21, consequently, I am writing to you today, to give you my history as well as my opposition to this Resolution.

Upon my marriage to my husband, Jim in March 1964, I joined an organization three weeks after our marriage. This organization is "National Council of Jewish Women", (NCJW) historically founded in 1893 at the World's Fair in Chicago. Since my becoming a member of this organization, I became President of the Greater Kansas City Section in 1987-1989. Needless to say, this organization met many of my needs and answers to many of my questions.

As to "Abortion", I was very naïve and did not understand what Abortion meant. As I learned, my Religion, that of Judaism, supported the Right to a "Woman's Right to Choose" that of Abortion. Again, I could not understand the meaning of Abortion. In 1989, immediately after attending a "Legislative Convention" with the National Council of Jewish Women, in Washington DC, I learned the meaning and the value of the "Rights and Regulations" of "A Woman's Right to Choose". At this time, the Webster Decision had come down, affirming the Right to Abortion. "We", members of NCJW, and many more Organizations within the State of Kansas, met in Wichita to affirm and confirm "A Woman's Right to Choose Abortion". A Coalition was formed at that meeting, and to this day, 2020, the Coalition exists, however, each Individual organization is working within their specific organizations....while, I at this time am the "Kansas Public Affairs Chair", representing the "Greater Kansas City Section, National Council of Jewish Women", founded in 1894, one year after the National NCJW was founded at the World's Fair in Chicago.

Today, I am writing to you to affirm MY position as well as Our "Greater Kansas City Section's" position, that Abortion is a "Right" as inferred within our "Mission Statement", which I will quote here: "The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) is a grassroots organization of volunteers and advocates who turn progressive ideals into action. Inspired by Jewish values, NCJW strives for social justice by improving the quality of life for women, children and families and by safeguarding individual rights and freedoms."

Our National Organization, affirms every three years, our Mission and our Principles and Priorities. These principles are "fundamental beliefs, which are basic to and inherent in all specific resolutions." One very important resolution, (out of 14 Principles), inherent in Abortion is, Principle 3, which states "Human rights and dignity are fundamental and must be guaranteed to all individuals." We do NOT declare who, what, when or how, we believe that "all" individuals must be guaranteed Human Rights and Dignity.

Further, "the NCJW will work on behalf of Five following Priorities": "Advance the Well-being and Status of Women, Advance the Well-being of Children and Families, Enhance the Quality of Jewish Life, Ensure and Advance Individual and Civil Rights and Support a Secure Israel and the Well-being of All Its People."

Within these Priorities are two specific endorsements I wish to state here: "Comprehensive, affordable, confidential, accessible, and equitable family planning, reproductive, sexual health, and maternal health services, and Laws, policies and programs that protect every woman's right and ability to make reproductive and child bearing decisions."

Abortion, therefore, is and should be "A Woman's Right" to make that decision with whomever and however she chooses. There is NO Member or Woman, across the United States who believes Abortion is Good or Bad, it is strictly "A Choice" that if necessary she should make her own choice, her decision, with whomever she needs to, and this is MY Personal Belief, consequently, I am in Opposition to HCR 5019. PLEASE VOTE to Oppose this Resolution.

Thank you. Barbara Holzmark, Leawood Kansas