

Opponent Testimony – January 21, 2020

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

You must vote no on the constitutional amendment HCR5019 Amendment that denies the right to reproductive freedom in the Kansas Constitution.

Being a woman myself I have thankfully never endured the hardship that comes with the process of deciding to have an abortion or going through with one. I too care for both the mother and the life of the unborn child, however, we have to look at facts, women of minority age groups and lower-income brackets are disproportionately affected by the lack of access to abortions. An unplanned child is no just consequence for unprotected or in some cases unwanted sex. We need to think about the needs of the child and the possibility that a future child can grow up in a family who's parents have had the opportunity to wait until they are stable financially and emotionally to properly care for and raise a child. If you are truly thinking about the life of the unborn infant we need to think about the potential future you are forcing them to be raised in. I agree that contraception should be the main focus, but it is not the states responsibility to enforce upon an individual a decision as great as raising a child when they are not ready. America is a land of the free and women in the 21st century should not have to ask ANYONE for permission on ANYTHING that they want to do with THIER bodies. It is not a politicians place, regardless of what values you hold as your own, you have no right to enforce those values on others. The unknown waters of each new election should never have such a life long effect on a person's life. As a future mother myself, I ask for the sake of all unborn children and unready mothers to stand up for a women's choice and vote no on the HCR5019 amendment.

Best,
Jessica Wilkus