

**House Federal and State Affairs Committee
Kansas Senate Judiciary Committee**

9:00 AM, Room 346-S

Testimony Opposing HCR 5019

Alicen Fleming

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.

Take a Note, Leave a Note, Lift Each Other Up

- “Your Body, your choice. God loves all!”
- “If I could tell you anything I would just tell you I LOVE YOU. I have never been this scared before but this is just the storm. It will pass. Prayers to you <3”
- “You are brave. You are strong. You are doing what is right for you.”
- “Trust yourself. You can do what you need to do anytime, anywhere. I love you.”

These are just a few of the messages I read in the waiting room of Trust Women - Wichita, Kansas. Tears of relief ran down my face knowing that I was doing the right thing. These messages were left by women before me who were in the same position I was. We all have something in common. We are women and we had a choice to make.

My Name is Alicen Fleming. I was born and raised in Wichita, Kansas. It is my constitutional right to decide when, why, how, and with whom I become a mother.

Even though the choice was difficult and at times painful, I CHOSE to end my family’s cycle of generational poverty. I knew that by deciding to have an abortion, I was making an educated decision to invest in my long term goals.

Do I want to be a mother? Yes, I do. I want to be the best mother I possibly can be. This is why I made my choice. For the future of my family and for them to have the best version of me possible.

It scares me to know there are people out there working hard to take away my rights. I think of women before me and those who currently live in states where access to safe abortions are limited. Luckily, I have a safe medical facility near me where I knew I would be taken care of.

The doctors, staff, and volunteers at Trust Women went above and beyond to make me comfortable during my time of need. They provided me with counseling and made sure I knew what all of my options were.

I was fascinated and proud to learn that every doctor there flew in from out of state to provide me with the health care I needed. Women will go to great lengths for their reproductive rights.

I am so thankful to have access to a safe abortion. When women aren't given a choice they risk the physical, mental, and financial health of themselves and their families.

My body, my choice. I am brave. I am strong. I did what was right for me. I trusted myself. I love myself. I will continue to lift up those around me who's rights are also threatened.