

Proponent Testimony for The *Value Them Both* Constitutional Amendment for Life

Joint Senate Judiciary and House Federal and State Committee on behalf of Jayhawks for Life from the University of Kansas

January 21, 2020

Dear Chairman Barker, Chairman Wilborn and Members of the Joint Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for the *Value Them Both* Constitutional Amendment on behalf of the “Jayhawks for Life” group from the University of Kansas. We are a group of students who are deeply interested in the question of life, and specifically the question of abortion as it relates to the Kansas State Constitution.

The ruling in *Hodes & Nauser v. Schmidt* last April has become a defining moment in our state, this state that we love. The Kansas Supreme Court’s decision means that virtually unlimited abortion may soon be the upon us. We know that unlimited abortion hurts women and their babies. We also know that without reasonable laws and restrictions—which are now in danger of being nullified—Kansas may soon become a destination for unlimited abortion.

This is not what we want for Kansas today. More importantly, this is not what we want for Kansas in the future.

The *Value Them Both* constitutional amendment proposed today would restore the rightful role of the people of Kansas and their elected representatives to guide public policy on questions related to abortion. We support such an initiative. It gives citizens a voice in this contentious debate, providing them at least an opportunity to protect the most vulnerable members of our society – unborn children – as well as their mothers.

The *Value Them Both* Constitutional Amendment provides the people of Kansas the chance to extend the same rights and protections we demand for ourselves and which we demand for women in our society.

Please approve the *Value Them Both* Constitutional Amendment. Give us and others in Kansas the right to make decisions on this contentious issue.

Thank you for this opportunity and for all your work for the people of Kansas.

Angela Baalmann