

Opposing HCR 5003  
House Federal and State Affairs Committee  
January 15, 2021

It is with a heavy heart that I reach out to you today to ask you uphold the current KS constitution which states that "All men are possessed of equal and inalienable natural rights, among which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness". According to SEVEN Supreme Court Justices in April of 2019, these "rights include a woman's right to make decisions about her body, including the decision whether to continue her pregnancy,"

While I respect that those who would enact this amendment think that they are protecting women and children, the reality is much more complicated. I am lucky to have never wondered if I can feed my own children, much less another unexpected child. I have never had to choose whether to bring a child into an abusive household. I have never had to birth a child that was the result of rape and/or incest. And yet, I can empathize with those that have had to stare down those choices. While mechanisms exist to help women in all of the aforementioned scenarios, they often can't act fast enough. What scares me most are the scenarios I CAN'T imagine that lead women to make this choice.

Make no mistake, desperate women WILL seek abortions, legal or otherwise, regardless of the KS Constitution, The question is whether you will continue to make sure that the women that Kansans care about can do so safely.

The best way the KS legislature can protect the women and children this amendment claims it values, to start is by expanding Medicare and funding our schools so that they have the resources they need to enjoy the rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Ancell  
5715 Constance St  
Shawnee, KS 66216