

January 13, 2021

Kansas House Federal & State Affairs Committee

HCR 5003

As a future physician, I strongly disagree with a proposed constitutional amendment that would threaten a woman's right to personal and bodily autonomy. I have been fortunate enough to have the opportunity to work with women in the medical field for over 7 years. Prior to medical school I worked in the Air Force as a medical technician in an Obstetrics and Gynecology (OBGyn) Clinic and for the past 3 years I have been a Director for a student-run safety net OBGyn clinic.

Throughout my experiences in women's health care, one thing that has continued to hold true is that women desire the autonomy to make decisions about parenting and procreation. Becoming a parent is one of the most important decisions a person can make. When women are able to decide when and if the time is right to be a mother, families and communities thrive. The decision to have an abortion, choose adoption, or parent, should be equally respected and valued.

By allowing political interference to enter the exam room, the patient-physician relationship suffers. The decision to have an abortion is no longer personal or medical, it is political. Abortion is a deeply personal decision and should be left to a woman, her physician, and her faith, not political parties. Increasing restrictions regarding if and how a woman can obtain an abortion takes choice away from women and puts in into the hands of politicians.

This bill and subsequent amendment have the potential be dangerous to women and their families. As a future Kansas physician, I strongly encourage you to oppose this legislation. I urge you to keep politics out of the exam room and respect the personal autonomy that the women of Kansas deserve.

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