

Kansas House Federal & State Affairs Committee

HCR 5003

My name is Mallory Lanier and I am a second-year medical student at a four year allopathic medical school in Kansas City, Kansas. I have a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from KU and will complete my Doctorate of Medicine in 2023. Upon completion of my training, I hope to serve as a primary care provider in an underserved area. As a future physician of Kansas, I find it necessary to voice my concern regarding this proposed constitutional amendment that would threaten a woman's right to personal autonomy.

In medical school, we learn that socioeconomic determinants truly impact one's health, including, poverty, education, and access to healthcare. In addition to completing my studies, I also serve as a co-president of Medical Students for Choice. Through this group, I have had the opportunity to know many great Kansas physicians and medical student colleagues. A peer of mine told me this story that I would like to share with you:

I want to tell you about a patient, who I'll call Christina. She was raped very early in her pregnancy by her Uncle. Then, her husband, who did not believe that she did not solicit the sex, proceeded to severely beat and strangle her. She felt extremely unsafe in her home and without any money to leave him, she wasn't sure that she was going to survive. My colleague watched the physician she was training under counsel the patient in a non-coercive and supportive manner. Christina was counseled on all of the options she had for her pregnancy, including abortion. She was also given domestic violence resources and referred to social services for further help. A Kansas resident like Christina is an example of a woman who would be hurt the most by this constitutional amendment. If Kansas were to ever ban abortion, financially privileged women will still be able to travel out of state and receive the healthcare they need. Poor women will not have this option and as such, will be disproportionately affected. The state should not be creating barriers to healthcare. Instead, we should be making it easier for all Kansans to have access to comprehensive medical care.

The state of Kansas is in the midst of a physician shortage, and the need for young, new physicians to practice here is more crucial than ever before. This constitutional amendment will drive away young, new physicians like myself from practicing in Kansas because it would prevent me from providing adequate, compassionate care to my patients.

Physicians have a unique role in their communities, and I am honored and privileged to receive my medical education in Kansas. I assume that Kansas legislators trust the expertise of physicians working in their state. Abortion care is health care. Therefore, I believe that Kansas legislators should respect the physician-patient relationship and allow women of the state the right to reproductive autonomy. This amendment has the potential to dangerously harm women,

especially those already disenfranchised. As a future healthcare provider of this state, I encourage you to strongly oppose this legislation. Medical decisions should be between a patient and her physician, not the legislature.

Thank you for your time.