

Members of the House Federal and State Affairs Committee,

I am writing to you again to express my strong opposition of HCR 5003. I am writing today as a concerned citizen, a mother to three females, and a woman who has carried five pregnancies to term, the first of which when I was barely eighteen years old.

Medical decisions regarding pregnancy belong between a woman and her doctor. Our Kansas Supreme Court confirmed that within our Kansas Constitution is the right to bodily autonomy. Our United States Supreme Court as well has upheld that a woman has the right to an abortion under the United States Constitution. As elected officials, you swore an oath to uphold both of these.

Basic human rights should not be put to a vote. This proposed amendment puts the control of a woman's body into the hands of voters, half of whom are biologically prohibited from experiencing pregnancy.

As the daughter of a former judge and the sister of a doctor, I understand the importance of both the law and the medical profession in our society. I respect the amount of time that each profession takes to learn the breadth of the discipline. I trust judges to make the right decisions regarding the law, and I trust doctors to make the right decisions regarding the health care of their patients.

The decision I made at seventeen to continue my pregnancy was one made from privilege. I had the privilege of parents who were willing to support me both financially and emotionally. I had the privilege of a boyfriend who was willing to stand with me and who also had parents willing to support us. Our support system made the realities of parenting more attainable. My then boyfriend is now my husband, our teen pregnancy baby is almost twenty two years old, and we eventually added four more children to our family.

While I have not once regretted my decision to continue my first pregnancy, it was a choice that resulted in hard consequences that altered my body, my health and the path of my life. But it was a choice that I made. Knowing the difficulties I've faced, despite my privilege and strong support system, I could not imagine taking that choice away from any other female.

I urge you to oppose this proposed amendment and to support the lawful finding that bodily autonomy is a right.

Sincerely,

Wendy Budetti