



Kansas

PO Box 917
Mission, KS 66201

(913) 490-4100

aclukansas.org

HB 2313 Opponent Written-Only Testimony

**Aileen Berquist, Policy Director
American Civil Liberties Union of Kansas**

**House Committee on Health and Human Services
Wednesday, March 8, 2023 – 112-N**

Committee Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Aileen Berquist and I am the Policy Director for the ACLU of Kansas. We are a nonpartisan, non-profit organization that works to preserve and strengthen the civil rights and liberties of every person in Kansas. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today.

The ACLU of Kansas is adamantly opposed to HB 2313 and any bill that attempts to insert politicians into the private, medical decisions of individuals and families. Not only is this bill a massive overreach by the members of this legislature, it is a blatant attempt to undermine the will of Kansas voters. The people of Kansas resoundingly defeated the August 2nd constitutional amendment that would have allowed government interference in their personal healthcare decisions. This bill does the same by using inflammatory, political rhetoric to push an anti-abortion agenda—and it has far-reaching and inhumane impacts.

This bill is a misrepresentation of how abortion care actually works, and by spreading a narrative of myths and lies about how medical practitioners provide this care they are endangering the civil rights of patients and medical providers. Medical providers already have an obligation to provide appropriate medical care. But this bill would take away their ability to provide appropriate compassionate or palliative care based on medical necessity and the wishes of the family, and it would rob parents of their ability to spend their child's final moments together. Terminal infants would be ripped from their parents' arms and forced through painful, medically unnecessary procedures that would only prolong their suffering. This bill is the opposite of compassionate—it is a cruel attack on people who are experiencing enormous pain and wrenching medical decisions.

When people are making difficult, complicated, personal medical decisions, a one-size-fits-all law will cause enormous damage. In an attempt to undermine the will of the people, this bill would insert politicians into the private medical decisions of women and their families, put terminal infants through untold pain and suffering, and criminalize medical providers who would choose compassionate, palliative care for them. Kansas women and their families do not deserve to be penalized for the misguided, persistent attempts of this legislature to control their medical decision making. We ask that you do not vote this bill out of committee.