



**Date of Testimony:** Wednesday, February 15, 2023

**Bill Number:** SB 5: Prohibiting the prescribing of drugs intended to cause an abortion using telemedicine and restricting the governor's power during a state of emergency to alter such prohibitions.

**Disposition:** Opponent;, Written Only Testimony

**From:** Martha Pint and Jacqueline Lightcap, Co-Presidents, League of Women Voters of Kansas

**To:** Chair Beverly Gossage and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare.

The League of Women Voters of Kansas are concerned by the intent and surprised by the appearance of this legislation.

We are concerned about SB 5 because it seeks to prohibit the prescription of abortion drugs by telemedicine and to take away the governor's ability to alter that prohibition during a state of emergency. Should SB 5 become law it would ban a safe, FDA approved, and widely used method of abortion. It is estimated that more than half of all abortions in the U.S. Are prescription induced. Such a restriction would seriously limit the constitutional right to an abortion in Kansas and particularly so for those who reside in the rural parts of the state, including western Kansas.

We are also, quite frankly, surprised and insulted to see this legislation come forward because we all know that just last August almost 600,000 Kansans chose to protect the right of reproductive freedom by voting to reject a proposed constitutional amendment which would have allowed for severe limitations and even the elimination of access to abortion in our state. We are all aware, as well, that a few months later in November of 2022, Kansas voters chose to reinstate Supreme Court justices who had upheld the right to an abortion showing again strong support for that right.

These facts are what make the introduction of SB 5 so troubling. There is no reason for this harmful legislation and no reason to think it would withstand judicial scrutiny should it pass.

We encourage you to do the right thing and kill this SB 5 as it is written.