



Testimony in Support of S.B. 297

Brittany Jones

Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

March 20, 2023

Chairwoman Gossage and Members of the committee, my name is Brittany Jones. I am an attorney, and I am the Director of Policy and Engagement for Kansas Family Voice. We care deeply about ensuring our laws protect babies in the womb and ensuring that women dealing with tragic situations can receive the care that they desperately need. Thank you for the opportunity to share with you our reasons for supporting S.B. 297.

As of late proponents for the abortion industry have sought to confuse many on what an elective abortion is. In some states there have been instances of doctors threatening not to prescribe certain prescription because they were concerned that the definition of abortion was not clear. We want to make sure Kansas medical professionals are not confused.

Some of this confusion in the general public occurs because the medical terms for a naturally occurring miscarriage and for an elective abortion look similar on a medical chart. S.B. 297 clarifies that in the heartbreaking situation in which a baby naturally passes away in the womb, what is commonly called a miscarriage, is not an abortion under our state's legal definition as stated in our statutory code.

The same is true when a woman is facing an ectopic pregnancy in which the fertilized egg has implanted outside the uterus. These pregnancies are highly dangerous for the mother and for the child. We want to ensure that the definition of abortion throughout our statute does not in anyway hamper a woman's ability to receive treatment from her physician if she is experiencing this tragic situation.

S.B. 297 ensures that physicians know what procedures fall under the legal definition of abortion. This bill makes it very clear that a specific intent is required to qualify for abortion and clarifies what an abortion clearly is not.

This is a very simple bill to bring clarity to a current definition. It does not create or change any policy. It simply ensures that we are clear on what we mean when we statutorily refer to an abortion. We want to make sure doctors, government agencies, and every Kansan knows what we mean we refer to this word.

I ask that you report S.B. 297 favorably for passage.

Thank you!