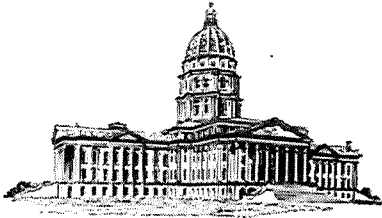


STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



SUSAN HUMPHRIES
99TH DISTRICT

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DATE: March 20, 2023
TO: Senate Public Health and Welfare
FROM: Susan Humphries, Kansas House of Representatives, District 99
Re: Written Proponent Testimony SB 297

Dear Chair Gossage and committee members,

Senate Bill 297 redefines the term “abortion” in the Kansas Statutes.

You might be asking why we need this bill. The reason is because that words matter, and even commas matter. We all know that statutes are studied and scrutinized, dissected and diagramed. We read them over and over to get the meaning and to accurately apply the law. When it comes to definitions, it is even more important because the definition of a word can change the whole meaning of the statute.

And so that brings us here. What exactly does the term abortion mean? What does it include? What does it not include? There has been much confusion over the definition of abortion in the past year, especially here in Kansas. The definition as it stands now can be misconstrued, misinterpreted, and even used to confuse voters. I believe this bill clarifies the definition and answers those questions.

Most of this 6-page bill is cleaning up any references to abortion in our statutes, and referring back to K.S.A. 65-701. The “meat” of the bill is on page 3, which you can reference to see the actual changes to the definition language. The previous long and confusing sentence has been replaced with more precise language and is divided into three sections for clarity. Section 3(a) lays out clearly what abortion is, and what it is not.

This is not a partisan bill, but is for anyone interested in this topic. I urge you to vote **SB 297 favorably** out of committee.

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