

**Testimony of Peter Brownlie
President & CEO
Planned Parenthood of Kansas & Mid-Missouri,
in Opposition to HB 2253 in the
Senate Committee on Public Health & Welfare
of the Kansas Legislature
March 22, 2013**

HB 2253 is a significant overhaul of abortion restrictions in Kansas. The 70 pages contain no fewer than 40 provisions, including at least 12 increases in individual and corporate taxes. More importantly, the provisions in HB 2253 do not reflect medical fact and create additional government regulations of and intrusion into the doctor-patients relationship. It is important for women's health to be continuously improved based on scientific advancement. Doctors--not politicians--should decide what information and care is best for their patients.

Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri opposes HB 2253 for the following reasons:

- **HB 2253 requires physicians to provide medically inaccurate information to patients, violates the rights of patients and the professional and ethical responsibilities of physicians:**
 - HB 2253 requires physicians to inform patients abortion includes “risk of premature birth in future pregnancies [and] risk of breast cancer” [Sec. 12: KSA 2012 Supp 65-6709 (a)(3)]
 - HB 2253 requires the state published “Woman’s Right to Know” (WRTKA) booklet include the statement “risks commonly associated with [abortion] including risk of premature birth in future pregnancies, risk of breast cancer, risks to the woman’s reproductive health” [Sec. 13: KSA 65-6710 (2)(E)]
 - Physicians have a professional and ethical responsibility to provide patients with medically accurate, science-based information about risks and benefits of medical conditions and procedures
 - The National Cancer Institute (NCI), the American Cancer Society (ACS), and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) have refuted the scientifically unfounded claims that abortion causes breast cancer (ACS, 2003 and 2011; ACOG, 2003 and 2009; NCI, 2003 and 2011). No credible evidence exists to suggest that abortions commonly cause future risk of premature birth. [See Attached Information]
 - Requiring physicians to provide medically inaccurate, misleading information to patients is a violation of a patient’s right to accurate information and a physician’s professional and ethical obligation to provide science-based, medically accurate information
- **HB 2253 prohibits Planned Parenthood from providing human sexuality education services and materials to school districts [New Sec 4(a)]**
 - Over 90% of what Planned Parenthood does in Kansas and across the country is preventive – providing life-saving cancer screenings, affordable birth control, prevention and treatment of STDs, breast health services, pap tests, sexual health education, information and health counseling.
 - Each year, Planned Parenthood provides medically accurate, age appropriate, comprehensive human sexuality education to more than 10,000 individuals each year in classrooms, churches, community agencies, and homes. These education services, including Mother/Daughter and Father/Son workshops, are offered free of charge.

- Planned Parenthood’s education department presents on a wide range of topics including healthy relationships, puberty, contraception and abstinence, self-esteem/media literacy, sexually transmitted infections, and how to talk to your children about puberty and sexuality. They also serve as a trusted community resource to educators as they develop their own lesson plans and techniques to teach these difficult topics.
- The best way to reduce the number of abortions in Kansas is through prevention. Access to medically accurate sex education is proven to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies.
- Prohibiting organizations like Planned Parenthood from providing educational services and materials is politically motivated and does nothing to improve the health and safety of Kansas’ young adults.
- **HB 2253 contains many tax increases and other tax provisions that remain unclear**
 - At least 12 provisions in the bill make changes to tax code. These changes appear to include
 - Increasing taxes for any corporation that purchases abortion health insurance coverage for their employees or provides HSA/flex spending accounts if those accounts can be used to pay for abortion insurance or procedures [Sec. 09 (a); Sec. 16 (b)(iv)]
 - Increasing taxes for any individual who purchases abortion health insurance coverage for themselves or their dependents [Sec. 15 (b)(xxiv)]
 - Increasing taxes for any corporation that makes charitable contributions to a nonprofit organization that provides abortion services [Sec. 18(f)]
 - Increases taxes for any corporation or individual who incurs medical and other costs related to abortion services [Sec. 9(a); Sec. 15 (b)(xxiv); Sec. 15 (b)(xxv); Sec. 16 (b)(iv)]
 - Effectively imposing a new state sales tax on [Sec. 20]
 - Drugs/medications used in the performance or induction of an abortion (p)
 - Educational materials purchased by a nonprofit corporation which performs any abortion (ll)
 - Tangible personal property purchased from a nonprofit which performs any abortion (rr)
 - Tangible personal property and services purchased by a health care provider who performs any abortion (ccc)
 - Excluding maintenance and repair of any building in which abortions are performed from deferred maintenance tax credit programs [Sec. (d)(2)]
 - Given the complexity and depth of changes to the tax code in HB 2253, including the increase of taxes on individual Kansans and Kansas businesses, Planned Parenthood believes this section warrants additional and extensive analysis by members of the House Committee on Federal & State Affairs. We call on the Committee to set the tax section of the bill aside to allow for further study, public comment, and possibly examination by the House Committee on Taxation.

Planned Parenthood has concerns about many provisions within the bill, only a few of which are highlighted here. Given the short period of time in which the bill has been available to the public, we are still consulting with our staff to determine how the bill will impact the patients we serve. However, we are available to answer any additional questions from the Committee. Women seeking reproductive health care in Kansas need the best care they can get from health care providers in their community. They do not need coercive and medically inaccurate information from politicians.

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