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Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

March 19, 2018

HB 2674-Neutral Testimony

Chairwoman Schmidt and Members of the Committee,

Because abortion is treated as a "health service," Kansans for Life's concern with HB 2674, as introduced in the House, was that the bill would conflict with current law and allow telemedicine abortions.

This concern was addressed by the House Health and Human Services Committee, with the addition of language in New Section 6 expressly prohibiting the delivery of abortion procedures by telemedicine, and the non-severability language in New Section 7.

These provisions reaffirm what the state comprehensive abortion licensure law of 2011 requires: in-person physician delivery of medications that cause abortion. The provision was further legally clarified in 2015 to accommodate exceptions for emergency conditions, particularly hospitalizations: [http://kslegislature.org/li\\_2016/b2015\\_16/measures/documents/hb2228\\_enrolled.pdf](http://kslegislature.org/li_2016/b2015_16/measures/documents/hb2228_enrolled.pdf)

The dangers of abortifacient (abortion-causing) drugs have not waned over the past seven years since passage of the state law barring the obtaining of abortion pills without physician examination and delivery. According to the April 2011 FDA figures, there were 2,207 adverse events related to the use of RU 486, including 14 women's deaths, 612 hospitalizations, 58 ectopic pregnancies, 339 blood transfusions and 256 cases of infections in the United States alone.

The KDHE's 2016 statistics show that 53% of Kansas abortions were medication abortions—up from 44% in 2015 and higher than the national average of 45%.

Our parent organization, National Right to Life, has consistently exposed that the removal of physician "in person" involvement with obtaining medication abortion employs significantly unreliable and incomplete data.

See: [New Study Claims Webcam Abortions are Safer Than Chemical Abortions performed at abortion Clinic: Part One](#)

[New Study Claims Webcam Abortions are Safer Than Chemical Abortions performed at abortion Clinic: Part Two](#)

The provisions in New Sections 6 and 7 of the telemedicine bill must remain intact, otherwise, HB 2674 will create a right to medication abortions by telemedicine that violates existent law.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jeanne Gawdun  
Lobbyist  
Kansans for Life