

Jan. 18, 2020

Bill: HCR 5019

Written Testimony in Opposition

To the House Federal and State Affairs and the Senate Judiciary Committees

Chairs Barker and Wilborn and Members of the Committees

The U.S. Constitution guarantees the separation of church and state, a guarantee that most of us depend on in much of our daily lives whether or not we think about it every day. But this is one of these days.

I don't want my religious freedom, including my or my family's decisions about reproductive health care, determined by someone else's set of religious beliefs which in no way match up with my own. However, I would never want my own beliefs forced on anyone else. If abortion is not an option for you at a time of family crisis, don't have one.

That's why it is called religious freedom.

Many years ago, my family was faced with a medical health crisis and I am eternally grateful that we lived in a state that offered safe, legal abortion. Our family and my physician agreed on the best way forward--no shaming or political interference, thank heaven.

To sum up my other negative feelings about these bills: using a constitutional amendment at all, the "sneakiness" involved, pushing it through with little or no public warning, the possible Sharia law tinge to the content and, to guarantee an easier-to-win election, putting it on a primary ballot where voter turnout is always low and outcome easier to manipulate, especially in Kansas. And consider this-- yet another example of Kansas legislation which will make it harder to attract forward-looking businesses and residents to our state.

Legislators, please do not allow these two pieces of legislation to pass.

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