

Written Testimony to Kansas House Federal & State Affairs Committee to oppose to HCR 5019
Honorable Chair, Representative John Barker
Vice Chair, Representative Francis Averkamp
Ranking Member, Representative Louis Ruiz
Connie Bahner, Committee Assistant
connie.bahner@house.ks.gov

Honorable Chairperson Barker, Vice Chair Averkamp, Ranking Member Ruiz, and Committee Members,

I am writing you to respectfully request that you not pass House Concurrent Resolution 5019, the constitutional amendment that denies the right to reproductive freedom provided by the Kansas Constitution.

My opposition is based on the idea that virtually all healthcare decisions are best made by patients and their doctors. Hence, it is certainly not the government's place to intervene when it comes to reproductive healthcare, especially due to the intimate and often difficult nature of those decisions. One of the key tenants of our democracy is the importance of personal liberty, and this constitutional amendment will essentially undermine a woman's right to make her own healthcare decisions.

I'm also concerned about the timing of this resolution's introduction. In order for you as committee members to make well-informed decisions in good faith, you need the best information available – that is a tall order when a resolution is formally introduced on a Thursday and testimony is due Friday morning. Such an abrupt turnaround on such an impactful piece of legislation seems to me like an attempt at limiting public input. Legislation put forth in what feels like the dead of night shines a light on political motives. I've been a teacher for just over thirteen years now, and I can tell you that any work done at the last minute is never one's best. By inhibiting the public's ability to contribute to the timeline of this resolution, you've essentially forced citizens to scramble. As a representative body, your duty is to serve us, the citizens. Neglecting to provide your constituents ample time to share our thoughts is simply irresponsible.

It is with the utmost respect and appreciation for what our great state has provided our family thus far that I appeal to you now on behalf of all Kansas families. Difficult decisions should be left to those most intimately involved.

Thank you for your careful consideration,

Claire M. Reagan
Olathe, KS