

Helena Buchmann
Kansas City, KS

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Chairman Barker, Vice Chairman Averkamp, Ranking Member Ruiz, and members of the committee:

My earliest memories of Kansas government involve elected officials attempting to control people's bodies. As a child, I watched and listened to news stories about our Attorney General using his power to violate the trust young women had with their physicians. As a teenager, I watched our Governor lead the charge in making sexual and reproductive healthcare harder to access. These policies-- and the conversations they prompted-- deeply affected the way I thought about my own freedom and value in my community.

I am asking you to vote no on HCR 5019. Kansans deserve the right to make their medical decisions in consultation with their physicians. Furthermore, patients and physicians deserve the dignity of making these decisions without arbitrary restrictions designed by politicians who seek to stigmatize, traumatize, and shame them in order to advance their agenda.

Growing up in this state, I had few ways to express my frustration with elected officials' decisions regarding bodily autonomy. I am asking you to vote no so that another generation of Kansans does not have to confront the question of whether their state values and trusts them, and more urgently, so that we do not put the lives and livelihoods of Kansans at risk by forcing them to seek abortions elsewhere.

Sincerely,

Helena Buchmann