

**House Federal and State Affairs Committee
Testimony Opposing HCR No. 5019
National Advocates for Pregnant Women**

Chairman Barker and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to express National Advocates for Pregnant Women's opposition to HCR No. 5019 today. This measure degrades and devalues women and should be titled Value Neither.

National Advocates for Pregnant Women (NAPW) is a non-profit organization that works to secure the human and civil rights, health and welfare of pregnant women and their families. NAPW submits this testimony in opposition to HCR No. 5019, whose title "Value Them Both" implies concern and protection for both women and the eggs, embryos, and fetuses that may be inside them when they are pregnant. In fact, this measure reflects the utmost disregard for the people who get pregnant, give birth and provide the majority of care for the children in this country.

By age 44, approximately 85% of all women in the United States have become pregnant and experienced at least one birth. These women are not a different group of women from those who have abortions. Indeed, 59% of the women who have abortions are already mothers of one or more children. Of the women over thirty-five years of age who have an abortion, 89% are already mothers raising at least one child.

If HCR No. 5019 passes and the amendment were adopted, the state legislature pursuant to section 22 could pass laws prohibiting women – most of them mothers - from obtaining necessary health care even when their lives and health depended on it. This clearly devalues women, their lives and health as well as those of their children and other loved ones they would leave behind.



Moreover, the kind of measures that could be authorized if this resolution passes and the state Constitution is amended have already been used around the country as the basis for arresting and locking up women who have no intention of ending a pregnancy. They have also been used as justification for subjecting pregnant women to forced medical interventions over their explicit objections. In one such case both the pregnant woman and her fetus died.

Because this resolution is about far more than abortion and because it could result in an amendment to the state Constitution that writes disrespect and disregard for women into the Kansas constitution, we urge you to vote "no."

Respectfully submitted,

National Advocates for Pregnant Women
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