

To: Members of the House Federal and State Affairs and Senate Judiciary Committee
Date: January 16, 2020

I ask that you vote NO on the constitutional amendment HCR 5019/SCR 1613 that denies women the right to reproductive freedom in the Kansas Constitution.

I was born in Wichita, KS and I have been a long-time resident of Fairway, KS. Approximately 25 years ago I was the victim of a sexual assault, a rape, as I entered my apartment building late one evening following a dress rehearsal for a play at Olathe Community Theatre. The police were wonderful, as were the staff that treated me at the hospital, but unfortunately the pharmacy made an error in filling my morning-after pill prescription, and I became pregnant. Unable to face going through a pregnancy that was a result of violent stranger-rape, I opted for the choice of terminating the pregnancy at approximately 6 weeks.

Waiting in a reception room with a small group of women at Planned Parenthood in Johnson County, I looked around at who was there with me. There were six of us, a cross section of ages and races. There were a couple of teens, a couple of young women who seemed early-career, and a couple of us approaching middle age. None of us were smiling or glib or happy to be there - all of us surely carrying the gravity of the decision we were making on behalf of ourselves and/or our families. I remember very clearly thinking to myself, "I hope I never have to be in this tragic situation again. But I am sincerely grateful to have a choice about what to do, and I will fight for the rest of my life for other women to have the same ability to make their own choice."

Please think of what you would want for your own wife, your own sister, your own daughter, your own friend - to have the right to full agency over her own body, which is surely the most primary of human rights - and vote NO on this amendment.

Thank you,

Kathryn Lorenzen
Fairway, KS