

Date of Testimony: Friday, January 17, 2020

Bill Number: HCR 5019

Testimony by: Heather Ousley

Testimony in Opposition

Chairman Barker, Vice Chairman Awerkamo, and honorable members of the Kansas House Federal and State Affairs Committee:

I write to you to today to provide testimony opposing H.C.R.5019.

Our Kansas Constitution affords all citizens of our state the right of personal autonomy. This provision was not adopted lightly and provides every Kansan the ability to control their body, ensuring they are the masters of themselves, and are not required to bow to any other's dominion. Self-determination, to craft one's own life, rather than to live a series of events that happen to you, is the fundamental intention of democracy, it is the purpose of our system of government.

H.C.R. 5019 is an affront to this system, creating a second sub-class of Kansas citizens, allowing men only to have the right to self-determination, and placing women at the dominion of the state.

The amendment casts aside the professional judgment of medical professionals as they seek to treat patients, ignores the religious freedoms for those whose beliefs regarding healthcare differ, and at its core, designates a woman's most primary function as the base biological, ignoring her other abilities, dreams, and obligations.

It is most important then, to hear from women who have stories to tell regarding the importance of self-autonomy, and as such, I am attaching a brief submitted to the U.S. Supreme Court this last year, in June Medical Services v. Rebekah Gee, Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health and Human Services, in which the woman testify they would not have been able to reach their personal or professional goals were it not for their ability to control their reproductive lives.

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