

Megan McQuinn

Kansas Resident

House Federal & State Affairs and Senate Judiciary Committees

Opposing HCR 5019 & SCR 1613

Good Afternoon Members of the committee. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak with you today.

My name is Megan McQuinn. I am a Kansas resident, born and raised in Wyandotte County. I live in Overland Park now, and will be returning to reside in Kansas City, Kansas again in a few months.

I'd like to tell you my story. When I was 18 I met a man. I fell in love with that man and by the time I was 21 we were in a committed monogamous relationship. He had always told me that he didn't want to have children. I also did not want to have children. He also told me he was sterile -- so believing that my partner was telling the truth, I stopped taking my birth control pills.

I would quickly come to find out that my partner had manipulated and lied to me, as I was placed into an unthinkable situation -- I became pregnant. When I discovered I was pregnant, I spent many days talking with friends and family, agonizing over one of the most difficult decisions of my life. I wanted to be sure I was making the best decision in a bad situation. In May of 2007, I had an abortion. My relationship with my partner grew increasingly toxic and abusive. It would take me 9 more years before I had the courage and support to leave the relationship.

I am now 33 years old. I am a senior project specialist with an engineering firm. I am a student at The University of Kansas pursuing dual degrees in Business Administration and Law & Society. This fall I will begin applying to graduate school seeking a master's degree in Criminology, Law and Society with a concentration in jurisprudence and social thought. I want to become an advocate for the most vulnerable.

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None of my successes would have been possible if I wasn't able to exercise my fundamental right to decide what happens to my body. This version of my future would have been impossible without that choice. And this is the future that I've always wanted. This is the future I deserve.

This is my story and this is why I'm here to urge you to oppose HCR 5019, which seeks to strip the fundamental right to abortion from the Kansas State Constitution. Thank you for your time.