

Members of the House Federal and State Affairs and Senate Judiciary Committees,

I am writing to ask that you vote no on the constitutional amendment that would deny women reproductive freedom in the state of Kansas.

This amendment would lay the groundwork for any number of extreme abortion restrictions in the future, including an outright ban. The Supreme Court already ruled in *Roe v. Wade* (1973) that a woman's right to have an abortion without government interference is protected by the Constitution of the United States. To vote for this amendment would be to exhibit complete disregard for a Supreme Court ruling that has been protecting the rights of women for nearly half a century.

Additionally, I take issue with an amendment that claims to care about children with the name 'Value Them Both Amendment', when no thought has been given to the quality of life of the children after birth. Proponents of amendments such as this care so deeply about children in utero that they often fail to think about the consequences of forcing someone to bring a child into the world that they are not equipped to care for. And though some champion adoption as the ultimate solution to this, many fail to understand the physical and psychological toll this takes on women, as well as the impact on children who wind up in the foster care system.

I am currently a college student, and with *Roe v. Wade* having been decided long before my lifetime, I grew up knowing that women's rights are better now than they have been at any point in history. I fear that with the introduction of this amendment, we are about to take a step backwards. Any amendment denying women the opportunity to make their own reproductive decisions is not only unconstitutional, it is not in the best interest of women or children. This kind of legislation has no place in Kansas, and I urge you to do the right thing and vote against putting it on the ballot.

Sincerely,

Grace Altenhofen