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To Members of the House Federal and State Affairs and Senate Judiciary Committees:

As a public health researcher, constituent, and woman. I ask you to vote no on the constitutional amendment that denies the right to reproductive freedom in the Kansas Constitution: House Concurrent Resolution No. 5019.

This is the opposite of addressing health concerns and requires the forfeit of liberties when legislators should be protecting our individual rights AND the right-to-health as Kansas citizens. Furthermore, it seems like a superfluous and poor use of legislative power since taxpayer funds already do not fund induced abortions.

Even with limited funding, people seek to have autonomy, control over our own bodies and lives. The data speaks for what happens in states that limit abortions: people suffer and die as a result of legislators' actions. Whether we look at other states or other countries for examples, induced abortion never ceases to exist, but the rates of death and harm increase from limiting reproductive rights. Restrictive laws on abortion do not lead to lower rates of induced abortion but the increase of botched and "back-alley" abortions. Per the Guttmacher Institution, countries that restrict abortion (or permit abortions only to save the life of the woman) still have induced abortion average rate of 37 per 1,000 compared to 34 per 1,000 in countries where induced abortion is not restricted by reason. The World Health Organization also endorses and reports the exact same information. If policymakers truly cared to reduce the number of induced abortions, the best way is to increase reproductive/medical access (i.e., increasing access to birth control and other family planning resources, supporting accurate reproductive knowledge and education, etc.). These numbers are well established, and it seems that legislators that promote House Concurrent Resolution No. 5019, with the data that we have, seek to harm their constituency than to protect those they serve.

The World Health Organization & Guttmacher Institute brief can be found here: https://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/unsafe_abortion/induced_abortion_2012.pdf?ua=1

Regards,

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