

Submitted Testimony to the Interim Federal State And State Affairs Committee by

Mrs. Barbara Rew on 10/30/19

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to address you this morning on the matter of Action Concerning the Legislation of Abortion Following the Hodes and Nauser v Schmidt Decision. A decision that is unjust and discriminatory to the most vulnerable members of our human family.

I consider myself blessed to be the mother of eleven children, (ten living), twenty grandchildren and three great grandchildren. I am also the President of Olathe Right to Life, a Not for Profit organization that serves to uphold and promote respect for the inherent dignity of all human life.

Our Patriotic Declaration of Independence states: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights governments are instituted among men deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed...etc.

The following is the first line in the first section in the KS Bill of Rights:

§ 1. Equal rights. All men are possessed of equal and inalienable natural rights, among which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

As you are aware, our US Constitution carries the weight of law and the Framers of these cherished Rights regarded them as self – evident as they truly are to logically minded men. The State is therefore mandated to protect, and to defend the equal rights of all human beings. We as human beings know in our hearts that it is unjust to deny the Right to Life to another human being. The Right to Life was listed as our First Right and of foremost importance. It is a Right from which the others proceed. One cannot enjoy Liberty or the Pursuit of Happiness without being allowed to live in the first place. The Hodes and Nauser v Schmidt decision is wrong because it denies the fundamental Right to Life to a entire section of our human family. Preventing a Constitutional Right to certain persons is a grave violation of their equal rights under the law.

The intent of the Framers of our Constitution was clearly intended to protect human life in the womb as is evidenced in subsequent laws enacted throughout our United States which protected unborn children in the womb. Doctor's swore by the Hippocratic Oath in which they pledged to "Do no harm to their patients or cause an abortion in a woman" The women who formed the 19th Century Suffragette Movement were all against abortion which is yet another proof that life in the womb was protected. Albert Sweitzer wrote that "If a society loses respect for any part of life, it will soon loose respect for all life." Mother Teresa said that "Abortion is the greatest destroyer of peace in the world."

This is a self – evident truth as a woman’s body is designed by the Creator to sustain, protect and nourish life in her womb. It is an act of violence for a woman to destroy her very own offspring, her own flesh and blood. Violence begets violence and it is no wonder that we as a society are losing respect for all human life.

Dr. Jeffrey Hall Dobken in the Winter Issue of the Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons documents the move away from the ethics of the Hippocratic Oath and forward to physician – assisted suicide, even physician – assisted death. Those who are sworn to offices of protecting human life must take great strides to oppose such a encroaching Culture of Death.

I oppose the holdings in the Hodes and Nausser decision that there is a perceived autonomous woman’s “Right to Abortion” in the Kansas Constitution. We are not autonomous beings who exist separately from one another but are each a unique member of the Family of Man with a common Creator. “Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name.” I also oppose a Constitutional Amendment to “Reverse the Ruling “ which would subject the decision of killing unborn children in Kansas to be put to a popular vote of the people which is akin to “mob rule.” No one has a right to vote to kill unborn children.” Children are our hope for the future and each child is a unique gift to the world.

I am also opposed to merely regulating abortion for that would make no more sense than to regulate murder. Contrary to some opinions, statistics from the Alan Guttmacher Institute (Policy Review / 2019 Volume 22) prove that abortion restrictions are not the main driver in current lower abortion rates from 2011- 2017. Rather, the decline in abortions appears to be part of a broader decline in pregnancies, as evidenced by lower births over the same period. According to their statistics, abortion rates declined in nearly all states between 2011 and 2017 regardless of whether or not the state enacted new abortion restrictions. “There is no clear pattern linking abortion restrictions to changes in the abortion rate. While 32 states enacted 394 restrictions between 2011-2017 nearly every state had a lower abortion rate in 2017 than in 2011 regardless of whether that state had restricted abortion access. The report went on to say that one of the possible factors to be considered in the lowering abortion rates was self-managed abortion.

Due to the growing development of dangerous self -managed chemical abortion, the recognition of the Personhood Legislation for the unborn child is imperative. The Personhood Amendment (HCR 5004)which is presently before the Federal and State Affairs Committee in both the House and Senate would if enacted, restore protection and dignity to all unborn children and not just some. The US Supreme Court erred in the 1857 Dred Scott decision by denying Personhood to the black population. It erred again in the 1973 Roe v Wade decision which failed to recognize the personhood of the unborn child.

In closing, the health of a society is judged by how we care for the most vulnerable in our midst...the very young and the elderly. We can choose to love and to care for one another or we will soon destroy one another. Let us strive together to recognize the sublime dignity and worth of each human being and to restore protection to all children in the womb.

In the words of the poet John Donne, "...any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind, and therefore never send to know for whom the for whom the bell tolls....it tolls for thee."

Respectfully submitted,

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