

October 30, 2019

Joint Committee on Federal and State Affairs

In support of State Constitutional Amendment reversing Hodes v. Schmidt

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Good morning. My name is Rochelle Bird. I sit before you today as a woman, mother and concerned Kansan. On behalf of the electorate, I am asking you to provide them the opportunity to shape the policy of their State.

The Hodes vs. Schmidt decision has created a significant policy shift, with the potential of deregulating the abortion industry. Reasonable regulations could be struck down, leaving few remedies and unintended consequences. In particular, this decision could impede efforts to ensure the safety of women. This is not in the best interests of the people.

Like many, I have strong opinions of this subject. Regardless of one's personal opinion, we should all support an open process where the people of Kansas can weigh-in at the ballot box. For those who support a woman's right to choose an abortion, I would like to dispel any myths they attempt to use as a means for denying the voters their voice. If enacted, a constitutional amendment:

- Will not ban all abortions.
- Will not outlaw birth control and IVF.
- Will not prevent exceptions for rape, incest or life of the mother.
- As is already the case, will not prosecute women choosing to obtain an abortion.

I am here respectfully requesting this committee honor its commitment to the people. As their representatives, you each entered a social contract, assuring you would work in their best interests. Please honor that trust and allow the voters to decide. Support the placement of a State Constitutional Amendment before the voters of Kansas.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this matter and giving thoughtful consideration to the points raised.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rochelle Bird
Overland Park