

January 13, 2021

To the Members of the House Federal and State Affairs Committee,

As your constituent, I ask you to oppose the constitutional amendment HCR 5003 that denies the right to reproductive freedom in the Kansas Constitution.

People need to be able to make decisions about their own bodies based on their own values, situation, family, and medical needs. A decision should not be arbitrarily forced upon them by the government! Kansas politicians have no place in this very painful physician-patient decision.

Further, no matter what you think about abortion personally, women deserve the right to make these difficult medical decisions privately with their doctors, especially in cases of rape, incest, or terminal birth defects. It is wrong to eliminate women's healthcare options when they experience a devastating diagnosis or life-threatening pregnancy. In these rare cases when a woman learns later in pregnancy that her pregnancy has a fatal complication, or that her life is in danger if she chooses to continue her pregnancy to term, women deserve the right to have private conversations with her doctor about her full range of medical options. We cannot sacrifice the lives of mothers for the child.

Moreover, women will always find ways to have unsafe abortions if they have no other choice. Data has shown an association between unsafe abortion and restrictive abortion laws. Abortion-related deaths are more frequent in countries with more restrictive abortion laws than with those with less restrictive laws. Less restrictive abortion laws also do not lead to more abortions overall. If we care about women, we must support their ability to have a safe abortion-- otherwise, there will be more unsafe abortion-related deaths.

Again, as your constituent, I ask you to oppose the constitutional amendment HCR 5003 that denies the right to reproductive freedom in the Kansas Constitution.

Sincerely,
Dwayne Apala Flaherty
Kansas City, KS 66101