

January 13, 2021

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

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

No one wants to have an abortion, but there are certain situations when someone needs to have an abortion. Unilaterally denying the right to an abortion in the state of Kansas is terrible and morally unjust. 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!

A pregnant person has two medical options: childbirth or abortion. Abortion is a safe medical procedure—indeed, safer than childbirth at every stage of gestation. The risk of death associated with childbirth is approximately 14 times higher than that with abortion. Here are some statistics / factoids from various articles:

- Those who weren't able to obtain an abortion were more likely to be living in poverty four years later; they were also less likely to have a full-time job and were more reliant on public assistance than women who received abortions.
- Among those women with children, the most commonly cited reason for choosing to have an abortion was the concern that having another child would compromise the care given to existing children. Women felt that they were already stretched thin financially, emotionally and physically—and they wanted to put the children they already had front and center. Two-thirds of women who gave this answer were at or below the poverty line and received little help from their partners
- In addition, many of the women surveyed made direct and indirect references to the "ideal" conditions of motherhood, expressing the view that children are entitled to stable and loving families, financial security, and a high level of care and attention. Because the women were unable to provide those conditions at the time, they did not feel they were in a position to have a child or, if they were already mothers, an additional child.

I have seen first-hand where the above situations were true. A birth does not guarantee a good life, and it can have many complications and burdens for the mother along the way. We need to support our pregnant people to have healthy pregnancies, healthy babies, and safe and stable homes.

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

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