

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Edmonds at 1:30 P.M. on February 22, 2005 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Broderick Henderson- excused
Representative Melody Miller

Committee staff present:

Athena Andaya, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Mary Torrence, Revisor of Statutes Office
Carol Doel, Committee Secretary

Conferees:

Representative Steve Brunk
Jeanne Gawdun - Kansans for Life
Marsha Strahm - Concerned Women of America of Kansas
Jana Mackey - National Organization for Women
Sarah London - KS Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence
Julie Burkhart - ProKanDo

Others attending:

See attached list

Chairman Edmonds called the meeting to order and opened the floor for bill introductions.

Representative Brunk requested the introduction of a bill regarding licensing as it applies to certain clinics.

With no objections, the Chair accepted that request for introduction.

There were no other requests for bill introductions and the Chairman opened the floor for public hearing on **HB 2300** concerning the unborn victims of violence act and recognized Representative Brunk who introduced the two conferees, Jeanne Gawdun, Kansans for Life and Marsha Strahm, Concerned Women of America of Kansas both proponents of the bill.

Jeanne Gawdun representing Kansans for Life presented testimony in support of **HB 2300** stating they support the bill as it reflects long-standing criminal law. She further related that when there are two victims of a crime in Kansas, prosecutors should be able to obtain justice for both victims, not just one. (Attachment 1) Mrs. Gawdun also submitted a copy of court cases regarding victims of unborn violence (Attachment 2), state homicide laws that recognize unborn victims (fetal homicide) (Attachment 3), as well as constitutional challenges to state unborn victims laws. (Attachment 4)

Marsha Strahm presented testimony on behalf of Concerned Women of America who supports the passage of **HB 2300**. Ms. Strahm related that a woman who experiences violence in her pregnancy has to be concerned about two people; herself and her unborn child. A woman whose unborn child is injured or killed has lost something previous, something that should be protected under the law. (Attachment 5)

Michael Farmer, Executive Director, Kansas Catholic Conference submitted written testimony supporting **HB 2300**. (Attachment 6)

There were no other proponents to **HB 2300** and Chairman Edmonds recognized Jana Mackey, National Organization for Women as an opponent to the bill.

Mrs. Mackey delivered testimony in opposition to **HB 2300** saying that **NOW** (National Organization for Women) oppose the bill on the grounds that it is unfair to offenders who are already punished under statutes prohibiting crimes against pregnant women, unnecessary considering the near-in-existence of such cases in

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Federal and State Affairs Committee at 1:30 P.M. on January 22, 2005 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

Kansas, and unsympathetic toward the very women it is supposed to protect. (Attachment 7)

Planned Parenthood was represented by Sarah London in opposition to **HB 2300** which expressed the opinion that they strongly condemn any act of violence that interferes with a woman's choice to carry a pregnancy to term, however, this **HB 2300** ignores the woman, and instead endows the fetus with its own distinct rights. (Attachment 8)

Sandy Barnett, Executive Director of Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence, addressed the committee in opposition to **HB 2300** taking the stand that it is too little, too late. They further stated that there are a number of steps that can be taken that will more effectively address domestic violence and these suggestions were listed in their testimony. (Attachment 9)

Executive Director of ProKanDo, Julie Burkhart provided written testimony in opposition to **HB 2300**. (Attachment 10)

Written testimony was supplied for committee review by Glenn Thompson of Stand Up For Kansas in response to questions which were asked at the February 17th meeting. (Attachment 11) Mr. Thompson also provided the Chicago Better Government Association Reports on the Impact of Riverboat Casinos in Illinois. (Attachment 12)

Chairman Edmonds announced that the meeting of the Federal and State Affairs scheduled for February 23rd would be canceled and with no further business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned.