



Kansas Family Voice Testimony in Support of S.B. 527

Senate Federal & State Affairs Committee

Brittany Jones

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Chairman Thompson, and members of the Committee, my name is Brittany Jones. I am an attorney and the Director of Policy and Engagement for Kansas Family Voice. Kansas Family Voice cares deeply about ensuring women are not coerced into abortions.

There are currently no explicit laws that give a woman the ability to hold those accountable who may be forcing her to have an abortion. S.B. 527 will arm women with the option of holding those accountable who forced her to make this important decision against her will. This is why we ask that you pass this important piece of legislation.

When a woman has been forced into an abortion she loses agency. It is no longer a choice. S.B. 527 gives her back some of that agency. Studies have shown that a high percentage of women are coerced into abortion. One study showed that 24% of women in that study were coerced into abortion.¹ This is not what we should want for Kansas women. It is important that these women be able to hold those accountable who forced them into this situation.

Women deserve not to be coerced into abortion, yet we know that they are. Women who are being trafficked are one population that is most susceptible to having a coerced abortion. One report made up of 66 human trafficking survivors reported 114 abortions for just the women in the report.² This study noted that many of these women were forced to have these abortions. We should do everything we can through the legal system to protect these women and give them a tool against those who have abused them.

Coercion is the opposite of choice. No matter how you feel about abortion as an issue, everyone should be able to agree a woman should not be forced into this decision. Other states have recognized this concern and passed similar law. Michigan, South Dakota, Indiana and others have passed similar laws. As abortions have dramatically increased in Kansas, it is important that women are not being forced into these abortions.³

¹ David C. Reardon et al., The Effects of Abortion Decision Rightness and Decision Type on Women's Satisfaction and Mental Health, Cureus, May 11, 2023.

² Laura J. Lederer and Christopher A. Wetzel, The Health Consequences of Sex Trafficking and Their Implications for Identifying Victims in Healthcare Facilities, The Annals of Health Law, 2014, <https://www.globalcenturion.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/The-Health-Consequences-of-Sex-Trafficking.pdf>.

³ Rose Conlon, Here's why Kansas abortions rose 114% in the first half of 2023, (Sep.8, 2023), <https://www.kcur.org/2023-09-07/kansas-jump-abortions-2023-new-study..>



S.B. 527 gives a woman who has been coerced a tool as she seeks justice against her abusers. It is important step for this body to take to protect women. I ask that this you report, S.B. 527 favorably for passage!

Thank you!