Less than twenty years after Kansas became a state, Wilhelm His, Sr. began publishing his three-volume masterpiece that was the world's first study of the human embryo as a whole. Embryologists built on his work by naming stages of human embryonic development and by 1942 had initiated the system of twenty-three stages still used by today's embryologists. The very first of these twenty-three stages is the initial contact of sperm and oocyte. At that instant a new boy or girl joins the human family wherein he or she is entitled to equal protection under the law.

Enshrining this truth in the foundational document that Kansas officers are sworn to uphold has become a responsibility from which our state cannot be excused. It is a duty demanded by decades of support for abortion among elected officials and decades of unchecked judicial errors. With thousands of Kansans asking for the opportunity to fulfill this obligation, it is imperative that HCR 5004 be passed to the full House for a vote.