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Testimony of Kelly Hansen, MDiv, Spiritual Director, Chaplain, and Member in Discernment of the United Church of Christ Kansas Oklahoma Conference

Opposing House Concurrent Resolution No. 5019

By Committee on Federal and State Affairs

January 17, 2020

I personally and professionally support a woman's right to make reproductive health decisions with her doctor and most personal advisors, therefore I oppose Resolution No. 5019. My own life has included serious health situations in which medical and spiritual decisions were made following conversation with medical professionals and in concert with my faith and the God of love in whom I believe and trust.

I fully believe no person enters these decisions about reproductive healthcare lightly. Having full access to competent, safe, and affordable reproductive health care is essential to the wellbeing of women in our community, state, and country. Many measures of a healthy community are highlighted with the wellbeing of women within it. All women of all ages merit the respect and dignity of having access to competent medical professionals with whom they are able to plan and direct their health care needs.

These are decisions to be made by particular women in particular circumstances, having access to all avenues of choices; not by partisan politicians who seek to regulate individual persons by sweeping generalizations regarding medical care choices. However any one person may feel about abortion, access to abortion and other professional medical care must be protected. This measure is a further intrusion of politicians into Kansas women's personal lives. Women don't turn to politicians for advice about mammograms, prenatal care, or cancer treatments. Politicians should not be involved in a woman's personal medical decisions about her pregnancy.