

Thursday, January 16, 2020

Members of the House Federal and State Affairs and Senate Judiciary Committees

I ask you to vote no on the constitutional amendment HCR 5019/SCR 1613 that denies the right to reproductive freedom in the Kansas Constitution.

Abortion is one part of reproductive health for women. A pregnancy is mentally and physically demanding on a woman which requires medical care to see a woman through a pregnancy safely as it can be very dangerous. Pregnancy will cause permanent changes in a woman's health for the rest of her life. It changes her life goals in education. Pregnancy impacts her employment and wage earning potential. What to do with a pregnancy is decided between a woman and her health care provider. Politicians and the general public have no reason to join in a private OBGYN visit. Our HiPPA laws mandate privacy. It is our right.

I had an abortion 49 years ago at the age of 14. I saw Dr. Powers and was an out patient at Wesley Medical Center. My Mom and Dad went with me. My Dads health insurance paid for it. I recovered and never looked back. When I was 30 and having been married two years I became pregnant gave birth to my first daughter and then again in 18 months I had my second daughter. I graduated from WSU when I was 8 months pregnant with my first daughter. I was the first one in my immediate family to graduate from college. I was an honors student. I earned a BA in Computer Science with minors in Accounting and Womens Studies. I worked my way through college. It took me eight years. I graduated at the age of 29 having been married two years. After I graduated my husband and I worked to pay off my student loans. Before college I got my certification as a Medical Assistant and was a certified CPR instructor. I worked for a while at the Wichita Medical Clinic on Douglas just east of Hillside, before starting college. My husband and I retired in March of 2018, ending our long business careers. Our girls are 33 and 32 and very successful. The oldest has a Masters from NYU while her sister is a Kansas lawyer. Both are contributing members here in the Wichita community, my husband and I couldn't be more proud of them. None of us have ever been arrested. We are normal tax-paying home-owners proud to be from Kansas and live in Wichita.

That said, oh, how my life would have been different! As it was I had no help from any family member with my journey. I can not imagine how I could have accomplished college and raised a child. The abortion I had at age 14 was THE.VERY.BEST. thing for me.

I do strongly feel that abortion and the way a woman gets one IF she needs one should be PRIVATE. It should not be tangled in religious rhetoric or politics. I am afraid there is a push to withhold reproductive medical care so that you can repress females. I am needless to say VERY disappointed to have this happening.

Again please, please vote NO on amendment HCR 5019/SCR1613

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