

Date of Testimony: Thursday, January 16, 2019

Bill number: Bill HCR5019

Testimony by: Rev. Laura Ann Phillips

Dear Chairman Barker and members of the House Federal and State Affairs Committee:

I am writing to voice my opposition to HCR5019, both as a citizen of Kansas, and as a faith leader in a house of worship in Overland Park, Kansas.

This bill is less about advocating for life and is more about making a public declaration of pious conservatism, a conservatism that not every Kansan holds. This bill is a violation of my right to separation of church and state, a separation which I hold very dear not only for myself, but for all faith communities, and all individuals who choose a faith to follow, no matter how different from my own.

Though my faith tradition follows Jesus Christ, like many pro-life advocates authoring this bill, my faithful following of Jesus Christ frequently differs from other traditions. It is a violation of my freedom to worship to insist that I must follow the same understanding of Jesus Christ as others, even though my education of, and dedication to, the faith differs greatly. It is a violation of my freedom to worship to insist that I must support a position that does not value the agency of a women, and her life as made in the image of God.

Furthermore, I value that Kansas is a place of diverse beliefs, both religious and non-religious, and HCR5019 takes away the ability to live in place of diverse beliefs.

I ask that you oppose HCR5019, not because you of your personal beliefs about abortion, but because you are greater than your own personal beliefs. I ask that you oppose HCR5019 because you value the freedom to follow a life of faith, for all Kansans, especially when their worship looks different from yours.

Thank you for your consideration,

Rev. Laura Ann Phillips  
Overland Park, KS