

Dear Representatives,

I would like to register my opposition to the proposed constitutional amendment restricting abortion access. I believe it is important to consider the impact that restrictions on abortion access would have on women's health overall.

As an ob-gyn, I see patients who have terrible and unexpected pregnancy findings including genetic abnormalities and fetal malformations that are incompatible with survival. While these babies would not survive for long after birth, the emotional trauma of delivery and watching a child die is worse for some patients than the choice to end the pregnancy. I recently saw a patient in clinic who discovered that after two miscarriages and years of trying to achieve pregnancy her baby had a terrible genetic condition and would likely die during delivery or shortly after. The moments spent in the clinic comforting this patient were excruciating for me and devastating for her and her spouse. After so much loss, they had the option to either let their baby go now without the process of delivery or let her baby go later after a labor and delivery. There was no good choice but, importantly, she had a choice. When people are going through so much already, I feel it is important to be able to offer them some autonomy to make the decision that is best for them and their future health.

Access to family planning services including abortion is important not just for women but for men and families. Forcing patients to carry pregnancies that are not healthy, not wanted or not planned can be traumatic not just for the man and woman but also for the child, other children in the family. I believe that abortion should be safe, legal and as rare as possible. I urge the Kansas legislature to use their considerable authority and resources to make family planning more accessible and affordable in order to achieve these goals.

Sincerely,

Emily Boevers MD  
Obstetrics and Gynecology