

Megan McQuinn

Kansas Resident

House Federal and State Affairs Committee

HCR 5003

Good Afternoon Members of the committee. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak with you today.

My name is Megan McQuinn. I am a Kansas resident, born and raised in Wyandotte County. I testified before this committee last year in opposition of the “Value Them Both” amendment. While the new amendment has updated language the end goal is the same. This amendment seeks to control women and police their bodies. The choice to have an abortion is a deeply personal choice. Those who have abortions do so for many reasons. I chose to have an abortion at 21. I talked with friends and family members while making my decision. While it was a difficult, it was the right decision for me. I felt a sense of relief afterwards. I was relieved that I was able to make the decision for myself and my future. By again attempting to amend the state constitution, you are removing the ability for others to make those same decisions. By placing this issue on the primary ballot, you are further disenfranchising Kansans who are unaffiliated with a political party.

This amendment is the first step of a slippery slope that is intended to legislate a total ban on abortion in Kansas. Proponents will disagree with me, yet they have tried time and time again to ban abortion with personhood and heartbeat bills. As well as unnecessary and dangerous restrictions on dilation and extraction procedures. They have introduced legislation that attempted to make it law for clinics to provide demonstrably false information to its patients about abortion reversal. They are now again proposing that a dangerous and flawed amendment be added to our state constitution.

The right to abortion is the right to bodily autonomy. This is not a newly discovered right. This is a fundamental right that is granted to all individuals. The Kansas SCOUTS rightly affirmed this right. For those reasons and many more I oppose this resolution and I implore you to do the same.