

Dear Chairman Barker, Vice Chair Averkamp, Ranking Member Ruiz, and members of the Federal and State Affairs committee:

I support HCR 5019. When I enter the capitol building, the presence of John Brown's sword always stands out. Here is a weapon that was used violently to protect others. Today, we have a non-violent opportunity to protect others.

We have the means to change our constitution, to correct wrongs of the past and to correct wrongs of the present. We have the opportunity to correct a wrong dated 26 April 2019. On that date, the majority of the Justices of the Kansas Supreme Court effectively amended our Kansas Constitution without the consent of the governed.

That Kansas Supreme Court decision did not begin the wrong. Our officials and representatives have led us down paths of death and destruction of the unborn for years. But it is time—individually, as a state, and as a nation—to repent. We must turn away from this fundamental evil of destroying the defenseless.

The power to alter the constitution does not end with the Judiciary. We have an opportunity to add clarity to the rules that form our society. There are, apparently, many ways to read the phrase "All men are possessed of equal and inalienable natural rights, among which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." And it has become the responsibility of today's Kansans to make clear that the right of all men to life does not begin at birth. As any expecting couple knows, there is nothing magical about our first breath. That life, wanted or unwanted, starts long before delivery. And as anyone who has viewed an ultrasound knows—even if they suppress the truth—that there is a person inside a person. It is beyond time for us to exercise our rights to protect the rights of those who cannot defend themselves.

Unfortunately, this amendment does not go far enough. While claiming to "value them both," there is no value being ascribed to the unborn child. The inalienable natural rights of that unborn child are not being recognized. So, there is still work to be done. But when presented the opportunity to right a wrong, we must take the opportunity. Are you for the protection of unborn children?

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