

January 21, 2020

Room 345-S / House Federal & State Affairs Committee and Senate Judiciary Committee
Written Opposition Testimony to SRC 1613 and HRC 5019

Rick Wilborn and John Barker, Ranking Minority Members Vic Miller and Louis Ruiz, and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee and the House Federal and State Affairs Committee,

I hope that you will vote against HCR5019. Even though I don't agree with it, I am actually writing to ask that you offer an amendment to expand its authority.

If it is the religious and moral obligation of some to try to ban abortions on the premise that it would save lives, and that all life is precious, then they can have no objection to the amendment I would suggest, as it would save countless lives.

I write to ask you to offer an amendment to HCR5019 that would make organ donation of all viable organs mandatory in the state of Kansas, upon death, regardless of the deceased or their family's wishes. My faith informs me that there is no reason for a dead body to retain any organ that could save another's life. And since those who support banning abortion based on religious beliefs, would apply that ban to those who don't share their religious beliefs, we will have already violated religious freedom by banning abortions. While mandatory organ donation would clearly violate some individual's religious freedoms, it would not do so any more than a ban on abortion would. And surely if a living woman does not have a right to autonomy over her own living body, then a dead body does not either.

If we ban abortion, favoring the life of a fetus over the life of a woman, forcing women to donate their bodies, health and safety to that unborn life, we allow dead bodies more autonomy over their futures than the living, breathing citizens of Kansas who make up half of our population. I'm not personally a fan of abortion in general, even if I do recognize that it is legitimate healthcare and support a woman's right to choose. But I am a fan of organ donation. If an abortion ban is to make it into our state's laws, then that same law should also strip the deceased of the individual freedoms of autonomy that it would strip from living women. I respectfully urge you to submit this life-saving amendment to HCR5019 without delay.

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