

**Proponent Testimony for The *Value Them Both* Constitutional Amendment for Life,  
HCR 5019, SCR 1613**

**Joint Senate Judiciary and House Federal and State Committee**

Angelica Nelson Atchison, KS

January 21, 2020

Dear Chairman Barker, Chairman Wilborn and Members of the Joint Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to express support for the *Value Them Both* Constitutional Amendment.

The ruling in *Hodes & Nauser v. Schmidt* last April has become a defining moment in our state, this state that I love. The Kansas Supreme Court's decision means that virtually unlimited and unregulated abortion may soon be upon us. Unlimited and unregulated abortion hurts women and their babies. We also know that without reasonable laws and restrictions—which are now in real danger of being nullified—Kansas may soon become a destination for unlimited abortion.

This is not what I want for Kansas today. More importantly, this is not what I want for Kansas in the future.

The *Value Them Both* constitutional amendment proposed today would restore the rightful role of the people of Kansas and their elected representatives to guide public policy on questions related to abortion. I support such an initiative. It gives citizens a voice in this contentious debate, providing them at least an opportunity to protect the most vulnerable members of our society – unborn children – as well as their mothers.

The *Value Them Both* Constitutional Amendment provides the people of Kansas the chance to extend the same rights and protections we demand for ourselves and which we demand for women in our society.

Please approve the *Value Them Both* Constitutional Amendment. Give me and others in Kansas the right to make decisions on this contentious issue.

Thank you for this opportunity and for all your work for the people of Kansas.