

Proponent Testimony for The *Value Them Both* Constitutional Amendment for Life — HCR 5004

Joint Senate Judiciary and House Federal and State Committee

Diane Macheers

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

Unlimited abortion hurts women and children; and is not a Kansas value. I urge you to support the **Value Them Both** Amendment to the Kansas Constitution. Kansans deserve a right to vote on this issue.

I, and the majority of other Kansans, wept the day the Kansas Supreme Court issued *Hodes & Nauser v. Schmidt*—it was one of the darkest days in Kansas history. Not only did the activist judges on the Kansas Supreme Court declare the ban on the barbaric practice of dismemberment abortion unconstitutional, they went further to declare that the Kansas Constitution provided a nearly unlimited “natural right” to abortion. Imagine the mental gymnastics the Kansas Supreme Court had to perform to find this right in the 1861 Kansas Constitution which was written when abortion was already illegal.

One only has to go as far as the description of this barbaric procedure in Justice Kennedy’s dissent in *Stenberg v. Carhart, 2000*, to see why this practice should be illegal in Kansas.

... the abortionist ... use[s] instruments to grasp a portion (such as a foot or hand) of a developed and living fetus and drag[s] the grasped portion out of the [womb].

[the doctor] uses the traction created by the opening ... to dismember the fetus, tearing the grasped portion away from the remainder of the body.

The fetus, in many cases, dies just as a human adult or child would: It bleeds to death as it is torn from limb from limb.

The fetus can be alive at the beginning of the dismemberment process and can survive for a time while its limbs are being torn off.

Please approve the **Value Them Both** Constitutional Amendment. Give us 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.

Respectfully,

Diane Macheers