

Ximena M. Garcia, MD
516 SW Danbury Lane
Topeka, Kansas 66606

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Dear Members of the House Federal and State Affairs and Senate Judiciary Committees:

I ask you to vote no on the constitution amendment HCR 5019/SCR 1613 that denies the right to reproductive freedom in the KS constitution. This is the first step in denying legal abortion to women and **research shows that it is an effective way to prevent abortion**. The only ways to prevent abortion are by **improving access to birth control** and by educating women about pregnancy and reproduction. Making abortion illegal or difficult to access is a dangerous threat to women's health. Often women considering abortions do so because they are in desperate situations. When there are no legal options for abortion, abortion continues to exist, but they are performed by unqualified people and result in bad outcomes and even death. Most women who seek abortions are already mothers and have other children depending on them. We cannot remove the option of legal and safe abortion from Kansas women.

Respectfully,

Ximena M. Garcia, MD