

Testimony submitted by Dr. Irene Bettinger, M.D. in OPPOSITION to HB 2503

The following is a summary of the main points:

Medicine, not politics, should determine appropriate settings for patient care. The state currently does not require any specific medical procedures to be performed at a licensed specialty clinic. HB2503 singles out surgical abortion, as the **only** office-based surgical procedure that would have to be performed at a special clinic with a special license. **There are risks associated with all office-based surgical procedures.** There is no credible medical justification for singling out surgical abortion for extra regulation-just politics.

Medical professionals must adhere to a standard of care or face malpractice suits and/or lose their license. Since 1996, there have been over 350 disciplinary actions taken, including 49 revocations. Every year, Kansas physicians face more than \$100 million in malpractice claims. We already have a system in place for protecting patients. Over the past five years, the Healthcare Stabilization Fund reported that only 1.35% of malpractice awards were as a result of abortion care.

Abortion is part of mainstream medical care. Despite political efforts to move abortion procedures to the margins of medicine, first-trimester abortion continues to be one of the most common and safest surgical procedures. Abortion may be safely performed in an outpatient clinic. In fact, many more risky procedures are performed in doctor's offices. Clinics in this state are meeting women's needs safely, efficiently and effectively.

NAF and Planned Parenthood guidelines are superior to the standards in HB2503. These guidelines include the latest technology and most up-to-date standards of practice. HB 2503 is outdated. PP's guidelines respect the responsibility of the treating physician to assess each patient in each situation and to apply his or her professional judgement. This bill micromanages medicine and restricts variation and innovation that are critical to good health care.