



Southeast Kansas Independent Living Resource Center

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY TO  
HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
on SB 528  
March 16, 2006**

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide you with written testimony on SB 528– Reporting statistical data regarding termination of pregnancies.

The Southeast Kansas Independent Living Resource Center (SKIL) strongly opposes the language amending KSA 65–445 that requires reporting of “...disability status of any pregnant female terminating a pregnancy *including physical disabilities and mental disabilities such as depression, cognitive limitations, substance abuse and other conditions*”, and requests that this language be removed from the bill.

SKIL, as a disability rights and civil rights organization, believes that it is discriminatory to include the disability status of a woman terminating a pregnancy in statute when no other personal information about women is included in the statute. SKIL has worked for over 12 years fighting discriminatory practices towards people with disabilities, as well as educating the public in an effort to dispel attitudinal barriers and promote full inclusion of people with disabilities in society. Adding this language to KSA 65–445, segregates those with disabilities from the general population, and has a strong potential to instill an attitudinal barrier that women with disabilities do not have the capability to make informed decisions about their pregnancies. Since the Secretary of Health and Environment has the authority to determine what information is collected by medical facilities related to termination of pregnancies, and can require that disability status be included in the reporting form, we feel it is not necessary to include this language in statute.

Thank you in advance for your consideration to remove lines 36 – 39 in SB 528.

Respectfully Submitted by:

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