

From: Inas Younis
Overland Park, Kansas

To: Special Committee of Federal and State Affairs
Tuesday, January 21, 2020 - Room 346-S

Topic: Oral and Written Testimony in Opposition to HCR 5019

Honorable Legislators,

I am writing voice my strong opposition to HC519 on the grounds that it violates my individual right to freedom of religion and conscience and allows for no provisions that would account for a woman's health and well-being.

As a Muslim I believe that all life is sacred, however, my faith tradition does not subscribe to the position that abortion should ever be categorically prohibited.

The debate over abortion begins with the discussion of when life begins. There is a unanimous consensus among religious scholars in the Islamic tradition that ensoulment takes place 120 days from conception. This is based on a tradition in which Muhammed, the prophet of Islam, mentions that 'the angel breathes the soul into the fetus by 120 days,' which is the equivalent of about four months.

Therefore, aborting the pregnancy **after** this point is considered wrong unless a physician determined that continuing the pregnancy would endanger the mother's life.

It is generally advised that a woman in consultation with her medical professional and religious advisor determine when an abortion is justifiable. Expert opinion from a woman's doctor and spiritual counsel should be tailored to the considerations of her unique situation and is not a matter that falls within the jurisdiction of the state.

Islam believes that the fetus is a precious sacred origin of human life. However, Islamic law still permits abortion under certain conditions with the logic that an actuality should override a potentiality. In other words, a potential life should not threaten an actual life. Although both are living, survival of the mother always takes precedence.

Please understand the very real and detrimental implications that a bill of this kind would have in complicating our understanding of the limitations of government power in legislating our private lives, our moral autonomy, and our freedom of religion.

I urge you to vote against this bill.

Inas Younis