

HB 2653
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OPPONENT
WRITTEN ONLY

Chairman Carpenter and Members of the Committee, thank you sincerely for giving me time to share my thoughts on HB 2653 with you today. My name is Kate Healy and I am a voter in Sedgwick County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote no on HB 2653.

This bill would be incredibly difficult to actually enact, and cause plenty of confusion and delay. This bill does not specify how an array of factors would be determined, such as how the state would determine the date of conception, how the state would handle paternity testing, and this bill also fails to address specifically what happens if pregnancy loss occurs.

HB 2653 seeks to impose restrictions on people that are alive, in order to support the needs of the unborn. Because the unborn are unable to voice their needs, legislators seem to be creating what they imagine the unborn will need, rather than listen to people who continue to ask for abortion care, pregnancy care, and supportive family services.

The redefinition of abortions as "elective" in this bill is dangerous and easily weaponized. The use of the word elective takes agency away from the pregnant person, and allows fear of punishment and exposure to invade the medical decision making process. This bill would cause more work and compounding anxiety for medical providers, who we must trust, want to care for their patient actively, instead of potentially withholding care until a pregnant person's life is immediately threatened. I would never want doctors or nurses to retreat from the best care they can give, because that best care could potentially endanger their own jobs. That is an unfair choice we should not force others to make.

Once again, I thank you all for hearing my thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote no on the passage of HB 2653. Thank you.