The Honorable Steve Brunk
Chair, House Federal and State Affairs Committee
Kansas House of Representatives
Kansas State Capitol, Room 285-N
300 SW 10th Street
Topeka, KS 66612

March 9, 2015

Dear Chairman Brunk:

The undersigned are physicians in Kansas, or physicians who refer patients to obtain care in Kansas, who write to express our strong objections to Senate Bill 95. We are experts in obstetrics and gynecology and are specialists in women's health care. We are alarmed at the unprecedented attempt of Kansas legislators to dictate how physicians should perform a safe, common, and evidence-based surgical procedure.

Senate Bill 95 represents unwarranted intrusion in the doctor-patient relationship. The bill would restrict the safest and most expeditious way to terminate a second-trimester pregnancy. In many cases, these terminations are necessary for the patient to protect her health or future fertility, and the bill lacks an adequate health exception that would allow physicians to exercise their medical judgment in these circumstances. This legislation could also force physicians to provide substandard care to second-trimester abortion patients.

The undersigned urge this Committee to consider the effects of this legislation on the doctor-patient relationship, if enacted. We urge you to enact laws that reflect the standard of care based on current medical evidence and preserve the doctor-patient relationship—not laws that jeopardize the sanctity of that relationship and threaten women's health.

It is our strong belief that the laws in Kansas should not be changed in this way. We serve our patients—who are often struggling with difficult decisions—the best when we respect their autonomy, dignity and their right to the safest care possible. Doctors must be able to make these kinds of decisions according to the best medical evidence and their best medical and professional judgment, without political interference. We therefore urge you to reject this harmful measure.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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