
Planned Parenthood Advocates of Kansas & Mid-Missouri

**Testimony of Elise Higgins
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Planned Parenthood Advocates of Kansas & Mid-Missouri
Regarding Senate Bill 95
Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee
February 2, 2015**

Senate Bill 95 will harm Kansas women, create inappropriate interference of politicians into the doctor-patient relationship, and cost Kansas taxpayers. This bill fails to improve women's health, and instead substitutes the will of politicians for the expertise of doctors who need to be able to treat each of their patients individually based on their unique set of medical circumstances.

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Kansas and Mid-Missouri opposes Senate Bill 95 for the following reasons:

It will harm Kansas women:

- With 3 abortion providers in Kansas, only one of which is outside of the Kansas City Metro area, many women in our state already struggle to access safe, legal abortion. Narrowing women's options for needed health care will disproportionately affect rural women, potentially making care inaccessible to them altogether.
- Abortion is a legal medical procedure that is a part of basic health care for women.
- Women — not politicians — should be making personal, medical decisions.

Because of its extremity, it will cost Kansas taxpayers:

- In the course of defending Kansas' record-breaking number of abortion restrictions, taxpayers have spent over \$1 million.
- At a time when Kansas' ability to pay state employees is in question, and the state faces a \$710 million dollar budget hole, guaranteed legal spending is the last priority taxpayers want policymakers to focus on.
- The bill is clearly unconstitutional; the bill's proponents' promotional materials acknowledge the likelihood of court battles.

Planned Parenthood has concerns about many provisions within the bill, only a few of which are highlighted here. Given the short period of time in which the bill has been available to the public, we are still consulting with our staff to determine how the bill will impact the patients we serve. However, we are available to answer any additional questions from the Committee. Women seeking reproductive health care in Kansas need the best care they can get from providers in their community. They do not need interference and judgment from politicians. We urge the Committee on Public Health and Welfare to advance the health of women and families first by passing prevention legislation increasing access to affordable birth control and comprehensive, age-appropriate sex education.