

Members of the House Federal and State Affairs and Senate Judiciary Committees,

I ask you to vote no on the constitutional amendment that denies the right to reproductive freedom in the Kansas Constitution.

The state has no right to interfere in the personal health decisions of its citizens. I'm happy to see that you are concerned with preserving life, however.

Please consider my experience with two neighbors. One neighbor was troubled and we feared he may harm himself. We encouraged him to get help through the VA. One night, he felt empowered to challenge two men, complete strangers to him, who were minding their own business, watching a game at a local bar and grill. When employees of the establishment stood up for the other patrons, he dashed to his home and got his gun. He came back and murdered one man and injured two others. Consider the costs to society of this one impulsive act made possible by unfettered access to a weapon:

1. The loss of life and productivity of the murdered man. The grief of his family, friends, coworkers and the community at large.
2. The pain, medical expenses and loss of productivity of the two wounded men.
3. The trauma for the staff and others patrons present.
4. The trauma for first responders.
5. The loss of revenue for the business.
6. The entire neighborhood was on lockdown. People could not return home. Those who were home could not even step outside their homes. We were about to retire when we heard the SWAT team with their megaphone in their assault vehicle parked 2 doors away, repeatedly demanding that Adam call their number. For three some hours our entire neighborhood was hostage to this murder. I found out later that even people who lived a mile away were also locked down and terrorized.
7. In the aftermath, we paid the costs in FBI and local law enforcement, citizen time in responding to those investigations and numerous requests by the press.
8. We, as citizens, also got to pay for the public defender for the murderer.
9. Now we are paying for his incarceration.
10. There are also uncounted costs in loss of the sense of safety and sanity of our city and the loss of its reputation.

Our other neighbor, a devoted mother of lovely children, had a D and E. I only learned of it when she shared on social media. The reasons, costs and distress were hers alone.

The state has no business regulating women's bodies.

Respectfully,

Carol Shimeall, Olathe, KS