

**Testimony in Opposition of House Bill 2749**  
**To the Committee on Health and Human Services**  
**February 13, 2024**  
**By Delaney Cay Jones**  
**In Opposition**

To Representative and Chairwoman Brenda Landwehr and members of the committee,

My name is Delaney Jones. I'm a graduate student, educator, and reproductive justice activist from El Dorado, Kansas. I am thankful for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding the proposed bill, and I write to you today in opposition of House Bill No. 2749.

HB2749 is an invasive, stigmatizing bill whose impact is multifaceted, including but not limited to invading and jeopardizing the patient-physician relationship crucial to comprehensive healthcare, increasing the undue administrative burden on medical facilities who already follow and abide by State Board guidelines, and stigmatizing patients seeking safe and legal abortion care by perpetuating unsubstantiated and inaccurate stereotypes about abortion care and subjecting patients to invasive and personal interrogation without medical necessity.

Firstly, this bill's proposed reporting requirements only expand upon existing law, which has already been found medically unnecessary and burdensome to both patients and providers. This bill seeks to interrogate patients' financial situations, relationships, and experiences of abuse, much of which is stigmatizing, traumatizing, and inhibitive to the administration of proper care. In the pursuit of one's own healthcare needs, Kansans deserve medical confidentiality. Further, patient-provider trust is a cornerstone of effective healthcare practices, and the destruction of this critical component to healthcare poses a serious risk to both providers and those in need of necessary care.

Furthermore, this bill is motivated by an opposition to abortion with the goal of intimidation, harassment, and shaming of those seeking and/or providing necessary and legal healthcare. This bill displays a gross and negligent level of government overreach into personal healthcare, whose language and basis were founded upon unsubstantiated and medically inaccurate beliefs surrounding abortion care. All patients in Kansas, regardless of the care they require, deserve objective, medically accurate, and destigmatized access to care without the intrusion of the legislature.

Lastly, this bill undermines the safety of abortion healthcare in Kansas, not only by stigmatizing and invading the privacy of medical settings but through the language, implications, and suggestions therein. Currently all abortion providers in Kansas are licensed by the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts and must adhere to very strict rules governing their practices. Should any questions arise regarding a provider or their practices, the state is already empowered to investigate and review such concerns or complaints, including those related to care and competency. There is no reasonable situation in which the government should be collecting sensitive and deeply personal information on patients as this bill seeks to enforce.

If elected leaders wish to protect the rights of patients, pregnant people, and/or providers, there already exists a vast network of resources, guidelines, reporting systems, and administrative practices in place whose sole purpose is to ensure quality and safety of care. Patients in Kansas deserve the right to medical privacy without the overreach of the legislature seeking to collect their private information with the goal of stigmatizing and preventing necessary care.

In closing, it is in support of the reproductive, medical, and personal rights and freedoms of all Kansans that I implore you to vote in opposition of House Bill No. 2749. Thank you for this opportunity to share my testimony in regard to this policy and your consideration thereof.

Delaney Jones