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Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
Sen. Beverly Gossage, Chair

Opponent Testimony, Written

HB2749 as amended – Requiring medical care facilities and providers to report the reasons for each abortion

Chair Gossage and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent testimony on HB2749.

Mainstream OPPOSES HB2749. This proposal is another attempt to undermine a person's right to safely access health care by creating a barrier through unnecessary reporting. Kansas voters have already spoken that they support the constitutional right to reproductive health care. Creating unnecessary barriers for both those seeking abortions and the providers who serve them is an overreach of the Kansas legislature to undermine this right.

The legislature is imposing a set of narrow assumptions regarding the reasons why a woman would need to access an abortion and mandating a set of data points that are disconnected from the reality of the need for reproductive health care. Even after the most egregious questions were removed from the bill as it was first introduced, the proposed questions to the patient are invasive and unnecessary. This data doesn't provide any benefit to the individual patient's care or medical outcomes.

Bills such as HB2749 – anti-abortion bills sponsored by pro-birth organizations – are grounded in a specific religious belief and create a government preference for this belief. This imposition of religion upon Kansans ignores the diversity of religious and spiritual approaches to reproductive health care, such as the Jewish value of upholding safe and legal abortions¹.
Government has no place in religion, and religion has no place in government.

¹*Jewish Perspectives on Abortion*. Rabbi Raymond A. Zwerin & Rabbi Richard J. Shapiro. (n.d.)
<https://rcrc.org/jewish/>

For these reasons, Mainstream opposes HB2749. **We urge you to reject this proposal that would negatively impact a patient's access to health care, threaten their right to privacy and safety, and undermine Kansans' constitutional rights to abortion and religious freedom.**

Thank you,

Laurel Burchfield
Mainstream