

Kansas House Committee on Federal and State Affairs
HCR 5003 – The Value Them Both Amendment for Life – Proponent

Dr. Amy E. Curry, MD, FAAFP

January 15, 2021

Dear Chairman Barker and Members of the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs,

Thank you for all you are doing and sacrificing to serve the state of Kansas in public office.

I am a board certified Family Practice physician and a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita Family Practice Residency Program at Ascension Via Christi Health. During 7 of my 10 years of private practice and now for the past 11 years of faculty work I have provided obstetric and women's health care.

I would like to offer my support of the *Value Them Both Amendment* for several reasons:

1. All patients have the right to be fully informed before any medical procedure. Prior to giving an informed consent, patients should know the risks, benefits and description of the procedure and have an opportunity to have their questions answered by the performing clinician. This informed consent process is the standard of care with any medical procedure and attempts to restrict or limit this process for an abortion procedure is going against that standard.
2. It is the public's perception that all facilities that perform medical procedures, including those performing abortions, are licensed and monitored for safety regulation compliance by the government. Allowing facilities of any kind to self-regulate safety procedures has historically put patients at risk of harm and also takes advantage of the public's trust.
3. Parents of minors are a part of any informed consent process for a medical procedure. An unintended pregnancy can be a stressful time in the life of a minor, putting them at risk to make potentially life altering decisions they may regret. Allowing minors to undergo abortion procedures, but not other medical procedures, without parental informed consent is an inconsistency within the law and the state's mandate to protect this population.
4. According to the CDC, unplanned pregnancies are over represented in minority, poorer and undereducated populations. Unlicensed or unmonitored facilities that perform abortion procedures could disproportionately cause harm to these already vulnerable populations and be yet another act of racial and social injustice.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns and my support of the amendment.

Sincerely,

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