

HB2653
Colleen Cunningham
Private Citizen
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2/13/2024
Opponent
Written Only

Chair Carpenter and Members of the Committee, Thank you for giving me time to share my thoughts on HB2653 with you today. My name is Colleen Cunningham. I am a mom of 3 and a voter in Johnson County. I am writing today to encourage the committee to vote NO on HB2653.

I am incredibly fortunate to have had three easy, healthy pregnancies covered by insurance and with access to excellent prenatal care. However, I understand that this is not the case for every pregnancy. Much as it is not my business to impede on other people's medical decisions without being asked, it is not the business of the Kansas legislature to weigh in on anyone's medical care unless explicitly asked. HB2653 redefines "abortion" beyond the current medical or legal meaning. Additionally, it does not indicate how the state will determine the date of conception, how pregnancy loss will be addressed, paternity testing, or a host of other pertinent issues that will create significant difficulties in enacting this legislation. Why does it not address these things? I would posit that it is because these are issues for doctors and other medical professionals to address; not legislators. Further, I would argue that Kansas voters made it very clear in August of 2022 that they overwhelmingly prefer for their medical decisions to be made by themselves and the people they choose to include. If a pregnant person wants input from their favorite legislators, that contact information is readily available.

Again, I appreciate your taking the time to consider my thoughts on this bill, and I encourage you all to vote NO on HB2653.