



Testimony of Taylor Morton, Kansas Lobbyist and Policy Analyst (written and oral testimony)
Planned Parenthood Great Plains Votes
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Regarding HB 2749 (Opponent)
House Committee on Health and Human Services
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Planned Parenthood Great Plains Votes (“PPGPV”) is the political and advocacy arm of Planned Parenthood Great Plains (“PPGP”). PPGP offers expert, compassionate sexual and reproductive health care to patients with three health center locations in Kansas. PPGPV submits this testimony in opposition to House Bill 2749. HB 2749 would require medical care facilities and providers to report the reasons for each abortion performed to the secretary of health and environment.

This bill is motivated by anti-abortion stigma and a desire to harass, intimidate, and shame health care providers and patients in Kansas. It directly ignores the will of Kansans who spoke loud and clear that they did not want politicians in their exam rooms.

Existing law already requires medically unnecessary and burdensome reporting by abortion providers, and HB 2749 goes even further. This bill would require providers to ask and report each patient’s “reasons” for seeking care from a legislatively defined list of 16 available “reasons” along with other invasive, personal questions regarding their relationships, finances, and experiences of abuse. And the bill doesn’t stop there. Under this proposed bill, health care providers would be required to ask each patient to *rank*, from one to three, each of their “reasons” for seeking abortion care. These questions have nothing to do with the provision of care and serve only as an attempt to further stigmatize people seeking abortion care and in cases of sexual assault or rape, could retraumatize survivors to score political points.

HB 2749 undermines the provider-patient relationship and presents serious and problematic barriers to open and truthful conversations about care. The ability of patients and their providers to have open and honest conversations is a fundamental element of the provider-patient relationship, and this bill directly undermines that relationship. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists has repeatedly reaffirmed their strong opposition to “any governmental interference that threatens communication between patients and their physicians or causes a physician to compromise his or her medical judgment when caring for patients.”¹ Additionally, this bill aims to increase the administrative burden on medical care facilities where abortions are performed by doubling the rate of required reporting.

The proposed reporting requirements in HB 2749 provide no benefit whatsoever to patient safety. Abortion is one of the safest medical procedures performed in the United States. Abortion patients in the U.S. experience complications less than one percent of the time.² And in those rare cases where complications do occur, OB/GYNs and other health care professionals are equipped to treat them. All

¹ <https://www.acog.org/clinical-information/policy-and-position-statements/statements-of-policy/2019/legislative-interference-with-patient-care-medical-decisions-and-the-patient-physician-relationship>

² <https://www.kff.org/womens-health-policy/issue-brief/key-facts-on-abortion-in-the-united-states/>



abortion providers in Kansas are licensed by the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts and must adhere to strict rules governing the practice of medicine. The state is already able to review and investigate if there are ever questions about a provider's services or facilities. HB 2749 has nothing to do with protecting patient safety, and only seeks to subject patients to invasive and incredibly personal questions, for no reason, except to pander to anti-abortion misinformation that has no place in expert health care.

Abortion is a critical component to comprehensive reproductive health care, and those who provide and receive this necessary care should not be subjected to state-imposed inaccurate and medically unnecessary hurdles to care. Patients are not asked such intrusive and personal questions when seeking any other form of necessary health care. Nor are pregnant people subjected to such questioning when they decide to carry a pregnancy to term. HB 2749 does not protect patient safety, and only serves to further stigmatize abortion and abortion providers. PPGPV strongly urges the Committee to vote against HB 2749.

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