

LOUD LIGHT CIVIC ACTION

Melissa Stiehler
Loud Light Civic Action
Written Opponent Testimony of HB 2749
For the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

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Chair Gossage and members of the Committee,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to provide testimony today. My name is Melissa Stiehler, and I serve as Advocacy Director of Loud Light Civic Action, a Kansas based, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that supports and builds the civic engagement and leadership of young people in our state. With respect to the Kansas Constitutional Right to personal autonomy and privacy, and the will of the people of Kansas, Loud Light Civic Action strongly opposes HB 2749.

This bill does not improve healthcare: This bill is shockingly invasive with no medical necessity. It does nothing to improve patient care. It does not improve medical outcomes. It increases bureaucratic hurdles for medical providers without any patient or public health benefit.

This bill violates personal privacy: This bill requires doctors to ask invasive personal questions that have nothing to do with medical wellbeing. It asks about financial status, familiar relationships, education level, citizenship status and more. It then requires those personal responses to be reported to the State Government for no identified purpose. There is no medical procedure in which this abundance of nonmedical questions would be appropriate, including an abortion.

This bill ignores the will of the people of Kansas: Many members of the legislature concern themselves with the sexual and reproductive health of the citizens of the state. Loud Light Civic Action also values Kansans well being. In this spirit, we remind the legislature of one of the most important lessons on consent: no means no. The people of Kansas spoke loud and clear when they rejected the legislature's constitutional amendment to remove the right to an abortion. We again ask the legislature to respect the will of the people and take no for an answer.

We strongly urge members of this committee to put our free state values into action by opposing HB 2749. Thank you all for your time and I hope you take our testimony into consideration.