

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

“Pursuant to Article 2, Section 14 of the Constitution of the State of Kansas, I veto HB 2503.

“As governor, nothing is more important to me than the safety and good health of our citizens. Kansans must be assured when they receive care in a hospital or clinic that their providers meet high standards of safety and responsibility. But these standards should be written and enforced by doctors, not politicians.

“I will continue to work closely with the Kansas Medical Society and the Board of Healing Arts in developing standards that will protect the well being of every Kansan who chooses the services of any surgical clinic, including those that would be covered in this bill. I am confident that strong standards, offering real protection across all procedures, will be adopted by the Board in the near future.

“Once again in 2005, the Legislature has chosen pure politics over good policy, has rejected uniform standards for all procedures, and has instead chosen to regulate only one procedure – abortion. As the number of outpatient surgeries grow rapidly in Kansas and throughout the country, it is wise to update our regulatory oversight to ensure the best possible treatment for all patients. Unfortunately, HB 2503 falls far short of meeting this basic standard of care. I have stated repeatedly that I will sign this law when it includes all surgical procedures and all surgical centers to ensure the safety of all Kansans.

“For these reasons, I veto HB 2503. I strongly urge the Legislature, upon its return, to endorse the appropriate clinic standards that the Board of Healing Arts is currently putting into place. We should encourage physicians and other health care professionals to work through the Board of Healing Arts for the speedy development of standards that apply to all surgical clinics and protect the health of every patient. There is no justifiable reason to do less.”

Signed Kathleen Sebelius

Date April 15, 2005