



Proponent Testimony H.B. 2439

Brittany Jones

House Health and Human Services Committee

March 20, 2023

Chairwoman Landwehr and members of the committee, my name is Brittany Jones. I am an attorney, and I am the Director of Policy and Engagement for Kansas Family Voice. We represent thousands of families who are concerned about ensuring women receive all the information they need to make an informed decision when it comes to abortion. Thank you for the opportunity to share with you our reasons for supporting H.B. 2439.

When undergoing any medical procedure or taking a new medicine, the medical community provides the patient with all risks, likelihood of success, and possibilities. *Why is abortion the exception?* H.B. 2439 will close this information gap in one of the fastest growing abortion methods – the abortion pill. H.B. 2439 simply requires that information be available to a woman should she change her mind about completing a chemical abortion.

Over half of abortions performed in Kansas are done using the abortion pill.<sup>1</sup> This is a relatively new method of abortion that has increased in popularity over the nearly 23 years that it has been approved in the United States.

During pregnancy, doctors and other medical professionals provide women with incredible amounts of information to keep their baby well. In fact, women are typically overwhelmed with information. Yet, in this one instance, opponents of H.B. 2439 seek to *limit* the information women receive about their options. Should a woman seeking an abortion be treated so differently from other pregnant woman when it comes to medical choices and information?

Twenty-nine states, including Kansas, have abortion-specific informed consent laws that allow women to know about the risks and alternatives to abortion.<sup>2</sup> H.B. 2439 will simply add information to pre-existing informed consent laws about this new method. With the large percentage of women who are now choosing a chemical abortion, they deserve access to the full spectrum of information.

Fourteen other states have passed laws similar to H.B. 2439 in place to enhance the information available to women.<sup>3</sup> In fact, clinics already have to post signage letting a woman know she cannot be coerced into having an abortion & letting her know about

---

<sup>1</sup> KANSAS DEP'T OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT, ABORTIONS IN KANSAS, 2021 (2022).

<sup>2</sup> K.S.A. 65-6709.

<sup>3</sup> Arizona, Arkansas, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, West Virginia, Louisiana.



assistance if she is being coerced.<sup>4</sup> This is not a restriction on an abortion but simply providing a woman with basic information about medical options that may be of interest to her. Further, it does not hamper the doctor's speech. He simply has to let her know that the information exists & how to find it.

Anytime any medical procedure is performed, the patient is given a host of possibilities. It is true that the abortion reversal method may not work on every single woman who changes her mind about an abortion, but every woman still deserves to know all her options. H.B. 2439 is a necessary and logical enhancement to Kansas' informed consent laws and aligns with standard practices in the medical field.

As the use of abortions by pill rises, it is even more important than ever that women have access to all their options. This is a simple way to ensure they have that access. We encourage you to join other states in ensuring women have access to critical information as they make important medical decisions by reporting H.B. 2439 favorably for passage.

Thank you!

---

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*