

Dr. Angela Martin, Written Testimony
House hearing Monday March 20, 2023
Bill #: HB 2439

As a high-risk obstetrician working in Kansas, I'm concerned about the proposal that would require notification to patients that the effects of a medication abortion may be reversible. I grew up in Kansas and have always felt it was my duty to provide safe evidenced-based care to my community. I spent 4 years in medical school, 4 years in OBGYN residency, and 3 years in subspecialty training in maternal-fetal medicine. I am a board certified OBGYN in maternal-fetal medicine. I have been in practice for nearly 7 years seeing only high-risk pregnancies.

The idea of using progesterone to interrupt a medication abortion is unproven. Medication abortion is a very safe and effective way of ending an early pregnancy, based on over 20 years of evidence in this country. It is very effective in ending an early pregnancy, it works about 98% of the time. Claims of medication abortion reversal are not supported by the body of scientific evidence, and this approach is not recommended by experts in the medical community. In fact, there are serious safety concerns with this practice.

It is concerning that anti-abortion legislators in my home state are trying to pass laws that would require doctors to inform patients about a practice that is unproven and potentially unsafe. I am perplexed that politicians want their constituents to receive misinformation! For *any* medical procedure or treatment, patients in Kansas need medically accurate information, free of state-mandated deception, pressure, or shame. My partners, colleagues and I want patients to make informed decisions based on medically accurate information. We spend time discussing all medically proven options with patients and supporting whatever decision they make. People who seek abortion care arrive at a thoughtful decision about what is best for them, their safety their health, their families, and their futures; we trust our patients to be the experts in their own lives. **Providers in Kansas need to be able to support patients in considering their options without state-mandated deception, pressure, or shame.**

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