

House Judiciary Committee  
Wednesday, February 15, 2012  
Testimony in support of HB 2523

Rep. Kinzer and members of the Judiciary Committee,

It was the early 1990's, and as a new medical school graduate, I had ranked highly in the match for Obstetrics and Gynecology. Soon after entering residency, however, I encountered vigorous opposition to my values, from the very people who had previously found me very desirable. Some residents were moonlighting at Planned Parenthood, a more or less officially sanctioned paying position that competed for their limited hours; on the other hand, when I stated that I did not want to perform sterilization or prescribe intermittently abortifacient contraception, I found that I was blackballed from the only residency to which I was prepared to devote all my working hours.

Learning surgical technique is crucial to the Ob/Gyn resident; I soon found that, no matter whom the instructor, I was no longer being informed of when the cases were being performed. When I performed extra legwork to be at the case, the attending would not speak to me, nor show me how to perform the procedure. Senior residents would take me aside, and in a dismissive or heated manner, in hallway or call room, tell me that I could not avoid the practices that disturbed my conscience.

One upper-level resident in particular repeatedly castigated me over this issue; I remember on one occasion, he came at me in a threatening manner and repeatedly poked his finger into my chest. When I discussed my concerns with the residency director, he had no solution for me to continue education in the program - other than distancing myself from my convictions - and no interest in the behavior directed against me. This was despite my assurance that I would not force others to live my convictions.

With a new home mortgage signed for, the stress was so great that my wife went into premature labor one month before her due date. The staff attending, who had previously agreed to be her obstetrician, refused to come to the delivery. This left the delivering physician of our first child, in a high risk situation, to be one of the senior residents who had offered me such opposition. Luckily a more accepting attending was on call, and agreed to come to the delivery.

Much could be said about this experience, but I think it best to repeat what the director of the family practice residency, that eventually accepted my transfer, stated; "We don't necessarily agree with all of your convictions, but we know that if you stand by what you feel to be right in those situations, we can trust you in other ones." If at some point in the future I myself become incapacitated by illness, I hope that looking over me will be a physician, who despite the numerous, manifold, and increasing pressures of practicing medicine in today's world, will be accustomed to following his conscience in doing what's best for the patient.

Sincerely,

Patrick R. Herrick, M.D., Ph.D.  
15435 W 134<sup>th</sup> Street  
Olathe, KS 66062

Patrick R. Herrick, M.D., Ph.D.  
 15435 W 134 St., Olathe KS 66062  
 (913) 768-0198, ext. 1713 (back line - office)

CAREER GOALS	Provision of quality comprehensive health care with integrity; with an interest in information technology.	
CERTIFICATION, PRIVILEGES, MEMBERSHIP, &	Active Licensure, Kansas. Diplomate, American Board of Family Practice. Active Medical Staff, Olathe Medical Center, with obstetric privileges.	1995-12 1995-12 1995-12
LICENSURE	American Academy of Family Physicians.  Catholic Medical Association.  Christian Medical Association.  Kansas Academy of Family Physicians  University of Kansas Medical School, Clinical Preceptor.  University of Missouri-Kansas City, Clinical Preceptor (ARNP). Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences, Clinical Preceptor.	1994-12  1997-12  1996-12  1995-12  1997-04  2002 2008-12
EDUCATION	UNIVERSITY OF IOWA M.D. Honors in Anesthesia, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Psychiatry, Biochemistry, Biostatistics, and Neuroscience. Ph.D., Biomedical Engineering. Thesis: Transient Cardiovascular Responses to Very Brief Hypoxia. GPA: 3.70/4.33 B.S., Biochemistry. With Distinction and Honors. GPA: 3.59/4.00	1992  1992  1986
POSTGRADUATE TRAINING	UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI at COLUMBIA Family and Community Medicine Residency.  Chief Resident.	1992-5  1994-5

EXPERIENCE	FAMILY PHYSICIAN, Associates in Family Care, Olathe.  Delivered first infant of new millennium at Olathe Medical Center.	1995– 12 2000
	EMERGENCY ROOM PHYSICIAN (part-time) Audrain Medical Center, Mexico, MO - Level II Trauma Center.	1994-5
AWARDS and HONORS	National Institutes of Health Medical Scientist Training Program Grants.  Academic Teaching-Research Fellowship Grants, University of Iowa. Phi Beta Kappa.	1991, 1986-7  1988- 90 1986
VOLUNTEER and COMMUNITY	Advice and Aid Pregnancy Center. Health Partnership Clinic of Johnson County.	1996- 04 1995- 12
PUBLICATIONS and WORK	U.S. Copyright TX 5-168-726: Analyses Guides for Patients with Symptoms of Acute Respiratory Illness. FASEB J., Abstracts.	1999  1991, 1988