

Trust Women Testimony
HB 2439
3/16/23

My name is Rebecca Tong, co-executive director at Trust Women Foundation, and I urge the committee to vote against the passage of House Bill 2439.

We own and operate Trust Women Wichita, one of a handful of abortion providers in Kansas. We celebrate ten years of serving our community next month. During that time, we have witnessed lawmakers attempt to roll back Kansans' right to access abortion care over and over again, more times than not using dubious or outright false pretexts for doing so. HB 2439, a law requiring healthcare providers to lie to patients, is yet another example.

Our patients deserve medically accurate information, not state-mandated deception. Kansans deserve doctors that are free to stick to fact-based medicine and are not forced to spread unscientific myths.

“Abortion reversal” is not a valid medical policy. No major medical associations support this protocol, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists¹, the Society for Family Planning, and the American Medical Association². This dangerous regimen is not approved by the FDA³. The only scientific study that has attempted to adequately research these claims had to be called off due to the dangerous hemorrhages that resulted. No doctor should be forced to lie to their patients.

Yet, HB 2439 requires providers to offer fantasy resources that do not exist in the real world. Under HB 2439, we would be required to inform patients “that it *may* be possible to reverse the intended effects of a medication abortion”, and direct them to resources where they might “*attempt* to reverse the medication abortion.” This is not responsible medicine, it is dangerous guessing that irresponsibly puts our patients at risk of very real complications.

The most recent study on abortion pill reversal had to be discontinued before it concluded due to safety concerns for patients⁴. **We rely on proven medicine and do not experiment on our patients.** Giving them outright false information about their procedure or prescribed medicine is

¹ <https://www.acog.org/advocacy/facts-are-important/medication-abortion-reversal-is-not-supported-by-science>

² <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/american-medical-association-sues-after-north-dakota-passes-abortion-reversal-n1025861>

³ <https://www.ansirh.org/sites/default/files/publications/files/so-called-medication-abortion-reversal-7-14-2020-1.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2019/12/05/785262221/safety-problems-lead-to-early-end-for-study-of-abortion-pill-reversal>

malpractice in any other context, but this bill would require that we intentionally lie to our patients.

Everyday our patients move heaven and earth to get to Trust Women Wichita. Most of them have had to drive over four hours one-way⁵. Nearly 60% of people who have abortions are already parents⁶, and they arrive with their spouse, their partner, their small children. The number one reason patients give for why they have come all this way is because they want to be the best version of themselves for their children. **You are asking us to mislead hard-working parents, potentially risking their fertility and their lives.**

Advancing and passing HB 2439 sends a message that this legislature is comfortable with promoting fake medicine, at the risk of their constituents' health and lives.

Politics has no place in determining medical best practices. Legislating medical treatments or requiring health care professionals to tell patients inaccurate information is an unwarranted and inappropriate interference in the patient-doctor relationship, and a violation of basic medical ethics. Passage of this legislation also ignores the results of the 2022 August election, in which the anti-abortion constitutional amendment was roundly defeated—a result loudly proclaiming Kansans' demand that abortions remain legal, accessible and unhindered by regulations not centered in medicine or science.

Rather than expending energy on restricting access to abortion care and introducing legislation that requires unsafe practices, we ask legislators to increase access to all forms of reproductive health care, so people can get safe, timely and compassionate health care when and where they need it.

We strongly ask that you stop this political interference into medicine and vote against the passage of HB 2439.

Respectfully submitted,

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⁵ <https://www.ucsf.edu/news/2020/01/416421/five-years-after-abortion-nearly-all-women-say-it-was-right-decision-study>

⁶ <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/12/14/upshot/who-gets-abortions-in-america.html>