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House Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Rep. Will Carpenter, Chair

Opponent Testimony, Written

HB2653– Providing for child support orders for unborn children from the date of conception

Chair Carpenter and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent testimony on HB2653.

Mainstream OPPOSES HB2653 and other attempts to establish fetus personhood in Kansas.

This proposal is another attempt to restrict access to safe and legal reproductive health care. HB2653 more narrowly defines 'elective abortions' than currently exists under Kansas statute and changes the date of legal personhood, and the rights associated with it, from birth to inception. **This belief that life begins upon inception is enshrined within certain religions, and HB2653 would impose this definition upon all Kansans – a clear violation of religious freedom as guaranteed by the First Amendment.**

Instead of dedicating more state general funds (an estimated annual cost of \$487,561 for new legal, administrative, and medical expenses as identified within the HB2653 fiscal note), we encourage the committee to pursue opportunities to improve maternal health and reproductive health care services for Kansans.

Kansas voters have already spoken that they support the constitutional right to reproductive health care. Creating more strict definitions and establishing fetus personhood is an attempt to undermine Kansans' right to legal and safe abortions.

For these reasons, Mainstream opposes HB2653. We urge you to reject this effort to undermine Kansans' constitutional rights to abortion and religious freedom.

Thank you,

Laurel Burchfield
Mainstream