

HB 2653
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OPPONENT
WRITTEN ONLY

Chairman Carpenter and Kansas legislators on the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to voice my views on this bill as a resident of Johnson County for over 30 years. I ask you to vote DOWN HB 2653.

This bill seems innocuous- after all, who wouldn't want pregnant people to get child support from those who father their pregnancies? But written between the lines is a description of limitations on abortion that appears similar to the proposed abortion ban of 2022. Trying to define life as beginning at "conception" (which in the prior bill included fertilized embryos to be used in IVF pregnancy for infertile people), and deny abortion except for the life of the pregnant person, with a specific exclusion for mental health risks.... that's a move BACKWARD for our state. The newest twist is trying to define "fetal personhood" which gives an embryo or fetus equal legal standing to the person carrying them in their uterus. A living, breathing member of your constituency deserves your regard much more than a pre-viable fetus. This is what Kansans said to you on August 2nd, 2022. STOP trying to re-invent your abortion bans and listen to your constituents. We do not want your laws controlling our private healthcare decisions. It's more than my high risk pregnant patients can bear, as they face difficult situations about continuing a doomed pregnancy or choosing their own life over that of their fetus, so that they may live to care for the children they already have. That's my world, every working day.

I know my appeal is very emotional (as well as medical), and I thank you for reading this far. Please vote NO on the passage of HB 2653 on behalf of my high risk patients and your constituency.