

For immediate release: January 22, 2021

Contact:

Zack Gingrich-Gaylord
Communications Manager, Trust Women
316-425-3215
316-737-1300
Zackgg@itrustwomen.org

On the 48th Anniversary of *Roe v Wade*, Kansas House Moves to Strip Kansans' Right to Abortion
Trust Women denounces the Kansas Legislature's fast-tracking of the anti-abortion constitutional amendment

WICHITA, KS—The constitutional amendment passed by the Kansas House this week is another in a long string of attempts by anti-choice politicians to put thousands of Kansas women in harm's way by banning abortion outright. "Should this amendment pass in 2022, it will surely signal the end of reproductive freedom in Kansas. Trust Women opposes this ban." said Ms. Burkhart.

Proponents of the so-called "Value Them Both" amendment claim they merely want the opportunity to regulate abortion, suggesting that women's reproductive health care is unique among all other health care in being unregulated. Nothing could be further from the truth. Reproductive health care in Kansas is already highly regulated, as is all medical practice. From necessary health and safety standards for clinics to burdensome waiting periods, abortion care is subject to myriad regulations and constraints.

"The amendment does not seek to impose regulations where there are none; rather, it attempts to remove hard-fought constitutional protections for Kansas women's right to personal bodily autonomy." said Ms. Burkhart.

"We have seen what happens when access is severely regulated and restricted," she said. "The result of this amendment will be devastating for Kansas women, who will be forced to travel out of state, endure pregnancies that endanger their lives, and take on additional burdens for their families. It is truly heartbreaking to see a legislature so out of touch with the needs of the people it purports to represent."

The landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Roe v Wade* 48 years ago ruled that women have the constitutional right to abortion without excessive government restriction. In the nearly half a decade since, *Roe* has been under constant attack by anti-choice activists. Trust Women continues to defend and expand abortion access on behalf of women across the country, through canvassing, education and opening clinics in underserved communities.

###

Julie A. Burkhart is founder and CEO of Trust Women, a reproductive rights organization that opens and operates clinics in underserved areas. Ms. Burkhart worked for seven years with Dr. George Tiller as his spokesperson, and directed his political action committee ProKanDo. After Dr. Tiller's murder in 2009 at the hands of an anti-abortion extremist, she founded Trust Women, and, in 2013, opened the first Trust Women Clinic in Wichita, returning abortion services to the people of South Central Kansas. In 2016, Ms. Burkhart successfully opened the second Trust Women clinic in Oklahoma City, expanding abortion access in one of the country's largest metropolitan areas.

Her work with Trust Women seeks to educate, engage and mobilize constituents in states hostile to abortion rights. She leads the fight for choice in legislatures and courtrooms, and has been at the frontlines of reproductive justice for more than three decades.

Trust Women opens clinics in underserved communities so that all women will have access to reproductive health care. Trust Women envisions a day when all people have access to reproductive health care, no matter where they live or their ability to pay.