

Testimony of Margaret Light-Scotece
Board Member of Women Have Options – Ohio
House Criminal Justice Committee
Senate Bill 145
February 13, 2018

Good afternoon Chairmen Manning and Ranking Member Celebrezze. My name is Margaret Light-Scotece, I am a local attorney, a clinic escort, and a board member of Women Have Options -Ohio the statewide abortion fund. I am here to testify in opposition to SB 145 the Method Abortion ban.

I have the honor of speaking for the thousands of people Women Have Options serve every year and the even larger group of our supporters.

At our most basic essence liberty means the freedom to determine if, when, how, and where to create a family. I am extremely lucky to have an adorable little toddler. As a parent and as a woman I must vehemently oppose SB 145. The method ban puts the lives of women at risk based on the religious beliefs of a section of society. I urge this committee to instead look to the expertise of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the national organization representing Obstetricians and Gynecologists. ACOG has stated that method bans similar to SB 145 are NOT protective of women's health and serve only to remove a safe and common procedure from the options for women who have already chosen to seek an abortion. ACOG has further stated that laws that limit access to abortion substantially and tangibly put the health and safety of women at risk.¹

SB 145 will not stop women from seeking or obtaining abortions in Ohio. SB 145 simply bans the safest and most common procedure that doctors will recommend to women seeking abortions after 13 weeks of pregnancy. Proponents of SB145 use inflammatory rhetoric to stigmatize a medical procedure. This is a tactic that does not serve this body's interest in protecting the citizens and residents of Ohio. When proponents of SB145 describe the method in graphic detail to unnerve and disturb this body their testimony does not change the fact that this method of abortion is the safest method, the method that risks the lowest number and least serious complications. The scientific community, the medical experts have resoundingly decided that this method is the generally the safest option for women seeking abortion after the 13th week. SB 145 removes the ability of Doctors to recommend and perform the safest abortion method procedure for no medical or safety reason.

As a parent to a child who may some day seek an abortion in the state of Ohio I am terrified that her doctor may not be legally allowed to perform the safest medical method. Terrified that her health may be put at risk of high complications for no reason. As a parent that is unacceptable, she will grow out of childhood

but I will never stop demanding the best medical care possible for her and SB 145 represents a senseless and heartless obstacle to the best medical care possible.

I would be happy to answer any questions from the Chairperson and the committee.

¹ American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, "Increasing Access to Abortion", Committee Opinion Number 613, November 2014. Reaffirmed 2017.