

House Bill 507

Sponsor Testimony

Good morning Chairman Schaffer, ranking member Rogers, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to HB 507 that will establish a one-time tax credit of \$2,000 for the parents of stillborn children.

I recently met with a constituent whose wife delivered a stillborn child. I learned firsthand about the unexpected cost of a stillborn child. In addition to overwhelming grief, bereaved parents also carry the financial burden associated with the death of their child, which can include the cost of an autopsy, funeral expenses, missed work time, and counseling. This bill will give grieving parents some financial relief. In House Bill 507 the existing Ohio certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth would be used as the tax documentation for the credit.

On average 900 stillbirths occur in Ohio per year, that ranks us 7th in the nation in the number of stillbirths. This legislation has been passed in Arizona, Michigan, Indiana, Missouri, Minnesota, and North Dakota. It is time for Ohio to join this trend. This legislation will help many Ohioans who are grieving over the loss of their child.

Chairman and members of the committee, I ask for your favorable consideration of this legislation and would be happy to address any questions you may have at this time.