

Yvonne Curington
HB 258 – Six-Week Abortion Ban
Opponent Testimony
Ohio Senate Health, Human Services, and Medicaid Committee
December 5, 2018

Chairman Burke, Vice Chair Beagle, Ranking Member Tavares, and members of the Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee.

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Yvonne Curington. I am 70 years old and I live in Dayton, Ohio.

I am strongly opposed to HB 258. I have been an RN for 45 years, and in fact, I still have a valid RN's license to this day, because being a nurse is an important part of my identity. My grandmother, who I lived with as a child, was a registered nurse and she inspired my work. During my career, I have worked in OB, in neo-natal intensive care, and in surgery.

I started in nursing school in 1966, so I was involved in the medical field long before *Roe v. Wade* was ever passed, and I can tell you that we must never return to those days. I graduated from St. Elizabeth Nursing School, worked there in labor and delivery, and then got a job at Miami Valley Hospital, where I worked on the women's surgery floor. I saw first-hand the effects on women who felt forced to find abortion solutions on their own, most often through illegal procedures. A couple of times a month back then, we would have patients come in--young women--hemorrhaging from complications from unsafe, illegal abortions. Many times the only thing we could do was to have them undergo hysterectomies, forever robbing these young women of the chance to have children in their future.

That was then, but we know that now that it is legal, data, including from the CDC, shows that abortion has over a 99 percent safety record.

I have 3 daughters, 7 granddaughters, and 3 great-granddaughters and I don't want to ever see them facing this kind of situation. I want women in Ohio to stay safe. We know that passing laws preventing abortion access will not make abortion go away. Women of privilege will always find ways to obtain abortion, but this ban would have a disproportionate impact on communities of color, immigrants, and the LGBTQ community who have been historically been discriminated against, and as a result have worse access to reproductive health care — and worse health outcomes.

We as a community, and women especially, have come a long way since those days, and I'm horrified that the Ohio Legislature would consider taking us back in time to those dangerous times. *Roe v. Wade* is settled law and 7 in 10 Americans support access to safe, legal abortion. The Ohio Legislature should stop wasting taxpayer time and money on these unconstitutional bans.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this harmful House Bill 258 bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.