

Kylee Gregg
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 Kylee Gregg. I am an 18-year-old college student at the University of Toledo. I have lived in Ohio for most all of my life. I am very strongly opposed to HB 258.

I am a child sex trafficking survivor. I spent 4 years of my childhood life being trafficked less than 4 hours away from the statehouse in rural Ohio.

At 11 years old, I began to feel symptoms I could not explain. Nausea, weight gain, pains all over my body. Another victim of the same trafficking ring was a girl about 13 at the time I was 11. She explained to me that I was likely pregnant. I was so used to vaginal bleeding from trauma that I had not even realized that I had had my first period yet. The other girl explained to me that she had gone through a pregnancy as well. We figured that I was probably 2 or 3 months along. She explained to me that I should “get rid of it.” Neither of us knew the word abortion. She said that if I kept it, I'd likely die in from complications in pregnancy or from being murdered by our traffickers. Yet, she did not force me to do anything. She let me choose. Because she understood that girls like us rarely got to make any choices. We cherished every choice we could make like it was the last one we'd ever have the chance to. Because we never knew when it would be. I chose to abort. She loaded me with alcohol and drugs and made me take cold showers and beat my stomach until I bled heavily and we knew it was over. Years later, after escaping trafficking, I learned that the girl who helped me had overdosed on heroin trying to perform another abortion on herself.

I spent many years of my life having my choices and my rights stolen from me, and now I see my government trying to do the same thing to me once more. I ask you to think of the girls like me who were forced to do awful things to themselves because they couldn't access safe and legal abortion in their own state. I ask you to think of the girls this bill would kill. The main idea I hear behind this bill is the supposed protecting of children, but was I not a child? Was the girl who overdosed on heroin in an attempt to abort not also a child?

This bill would re-victimize and re-traumatize women and girls who have already been through more than what most of you can imagine. This bill will result in the death of women and girls.

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

I will now take any questions you may have.