

Meghan St John
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 Meghan St John. I am a medical student in Ohio. I look forward to being a practicing OB/GYN physician specializing in Family Planning, and I am strongly opposed to HB 258.

As a current medical student and future health care professional, I believe it is irresponsible to let politicians make medical decisions for patients. The reasons women choose to have abortions are complex, including (but not limited to) being too young to be a parent, not being able to financially support a child, and not wanting any more children. While 90% of women who are not seeking pregnancy use contraception, up to half of pregnancies in the United States are unintended. This bill will attempt to ban abortion at six weeks, a time when most women don't even know they're pregnant. Furthermore, abortion is one of the safest medical procedures. The risk of complication from a first trimester abortion is only 0.05%, and according to studies published in the *Obstetrics & Gynecology Journal* it is approximately fourteen times safer than childbirth.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this harmful bill.

Thank you for your time,
Meghan St John