

Kimberley Mason
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 Kimberley Mason. I am a Florida-native, two-time alumni of the University of Cincinnati's graduate program, and have been a patient at Planned Parenthood for eleven years. I am strongly opposed to House Bill 258.

Nine years ago, as an undergraduate student and nearly finished with my bachelor's degree, I realized I was pregnant. I knew immediately that I wanted to have an abortion. My reasons, like every person considering abortion, are justified and need no validation from politicians. Planned Parenthood, my trusted healthcare provider who I went to for everything from birth control to a respiratory infection, scheduled me to come in as soon as possible. I was eight weeks along in my pregnancy.

I finished my degree, moved to Cincinnati, earned two master's degrees, and now work as a Health Educator teaching my community about critical health issues and resources. A law such as House Bill 258 that bans abortion at six weeks would have prevented me from reaching all those accomplishments. I certainly would have been left with risky options: to hurt myself (either by seeking a clandestine provider or self-inducing) or to be forced into motherhood. Abortion is a public health issue and a human right. Banning it is an attack on women.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote no on this life-threatening bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Kimberley Mason