

**Testimony of Meg P,
Senate Health, Human Services And Medicaid Committee
House Bill 258
December 4, 2018**

Chairman Burke, Ranking Member Tavares, and members of the Senate Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to HB 258. Hello, my name is Meg and I reside in Columbus, OH. This may be hard for me, but I would like to read outloud a letter I wrote to the Senator Obhof a few weeks ago in response to abortion bans.

I recently was pregnant and my unborn child was very, very ill. She was missing 116 genes. These missing genes caused her to have a hole in the heart, irregular formation of the brain, club feet, kidney issues, possible blindness, possible brain tumor. If I was to carry her full term (that's if she made it), she would need open heart surgery, kidney transplant, leg/foot surgery. The genetic counselor said she wouldn't also be able to make decisions and cognitively be there. I was 20 weeks pregnant when the doctors found the first problem- hole in the heart. 24 weeks when they found out about missing chromosomes and other abnormalities.

I had to make the hardest choice of my life. I went back and forth of the pros and cons about keeping this child alive. A child who would not even be present or benefit from what life has to offer. I could not financially afford all these surgeries. She was the only case in the world with this chromosome deletion and the unknowns of her future was terrifying me. My pros were all selfish- I wanted to have a child so bad to love and watch grow. But that would never be an option for my child. I knew I could not see my precious daughter go through all these surgeries and the risk were too high. This choice that I made was out of pure love. Love for me, love for my daughter, love for my future children.

It was just 3 weeks ago that I was in labor. I had to fly to Boulder, Colorado to do the procedure. I know I made this right decision, however my own state of Ohio did not support me. I've been grieving since I found out about her hole in the heart on October 5. I never thought in a million years this would happen to me. Procedures like this are not covered by most insurances and cost out of pocket 8 – 10 thousand dollars. I'm lucky that I had great organizations that helped me with the financial burden so I can focus on healing my heart.

House Bill 258 needs to be voted NO on. I am an American citizen and it is my free right to choose to bring a child into the world. It is why we live in the USA- freedom. I want to bring a healthy child into this world and as a parent I could not bring an ill baby into this world to watch them suffer.

This story is very hard for me discuss and very close to my heart but I feel like it may help you understand. My fiancé his whole life was pro-life; but you never know ever unless you walk into someone's else's shoes what this type of situation is like. It goes to show we should never judge anyone for their choice.
