

Christine Uebel-Niemeier
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.

I am writing to you today to express my strong opposition to House Bill 258. I am a volunteer abortion doula at Planned Parenthood of Southwest Ohio, which means that I provide physical and emotional support to patients who are terminating pregnancies.

This often includes offering a hand for them to hold during procedures, keeping them company during their wait, listening to their concerns, and helping them process their emotions. I have heard so many powerful stories from these patients. I have met women in dire circumstances who made the decision to terminate their pregnancy for their own safety. I have met women who made this choice to be able to better care for the children they already have. These women are some of the most selfless, loving people I have ever met.

Abortion was the caring choice that they made for themselves and for the people around them. Every single pregnant person who walks into the clinic has a valid reason for doing so. Of the countless women I have met over the course of my doula work, nearly all were further than six weeks into their pregnancies. Most did not even know about their pregnancy until after six weeks. HB 258 would prevent many women from being able to make a decision before they even know there is a decision to make. If politicians are not consulted by doctors on other medical procedures, it does not make sense for them to be involved in these medical decisions either.

Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows that abortions procedure are safe 99% of the time. That is safer than childbirth and many other medical procedures. It is incredibly important that politicians use facts when making policy that can have such a profound impact on women's lives and wellbeing.

HB 258 is not based in fact whatsoever and could have a serious detrimental impact on women in Ohio. That is why I strongly urge you to oppose this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

Christine Uebel-Niemeier

Cincinnati, Ohio