

**Beth Powder**  
**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 Minority Member Tavares, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Beth Powder. I am going to share with you my abortion story and reason for opposition to House Bill 258.

When I was 33, my life revolved around work. My job had me working over 12 hours a day, 6 days a week. I'd made the conscious choice no to have a partner. And while I wanted children, I was concerned I wouldn't be able to have them. Aside from being one of many people in the insurance gap, I had a physical condition that caused me to grow large debilitating fibroids in my uterus.

I didn't have any insurance because I made too much for Medicaid and couldn't afford the plans available to me at that time. So when I became pregnant at the end of the summer in 2012, I didn't actually get to exercise my choice. I had been using birth control. I took the morning after pill. And I told the person I slept with to use a condom. He pretended to open a condom packet and mimed putting one on. He took what he wanted the way he wanted it, without my consent. And I got pregnant.

I can't be certain, but I feel strongly that if I hadn't had an abortion I would have miscarried that baby. I had no prenatal care, no postnatal care, and could never have afford to pay the \$20k to \$30k it would have cost to give birth. I've had 3 miscarriages. My womb used to fill up with fibroid tumors before I ultimately had to have an emergency hysterectomy. In 2014, I was diagnosed in an ER with over 22 baseball-sized fibroids in my womb. To attempt to carry a baby with the severe form of this condition that I have means serious health complications for me and likely means a miscarriage.

My miscarriages:  
Age 20, 3 ½ months  
Age 34, 2 ½ months  
Age 35, 7 weeks

My abortion was simply 2 pills and it hurt less than some of my ovulation pain. I can't have kids and I desperately wanted kids. I wouldn't take back my abortion if you gave me a baby. I had a pact with myself that if I ever got pregnant I would keep it. And then I did. If I'd stayed pregnant, either I could have died in a county hospital or I'd have lost my baby.

I strongly urge you to vote NO on House Bill 258.

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony. I am happy to answer any questions you have.

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