

Donna M. Shimko
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,

All women have the legal, moral, basic, human right to choose whether or not and when to have a child.

You, our elected representatives, benefit from the right to make your own choices. Think how different your life would be if those decisions were enforced upon you, by people who did not know you, and did not consider your best interests.

Regardless of your own personal beliefs, I implore you to put yourself into the place of a young Ohio woman who finds herself with an unplanned pregnancy. For any one of a dozen reasons, she does not – cannot – have a child at this time in her life.

Envision yourself as a young pregnant woman - you realize that you need courage and wisdom to make the best decision for your future. But you need ALL options available to you: will you have and keep the child? Will you give it up for adoption? Or will you have a SAFE and LEGAL abortion?

As this young pregnant woman, you discover that you are pregnant at eight weeks – so if the six-week abortion ban becomes law, the choice of abortion would be denied you.

This person denied a choice could also be your daughter – your sister – your cousin – your friend.

Reproductive rights must be protected by and for ALL Ohio citizens. Taking away those rights is oppressive and a severe injustice.

I beseech you, to use your empathy, your wisdom, and belief in justice under the law – VOTE AGAINST HB258 – NO SIX-WEEK ABORTION BAN FOR OHIO WOMEN.

Thank you.

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