

Crystal Wilmhoff
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,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Crystal Wilmhoff. I am an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse that has practiced for 20 years with a specialty in Women's Health. I am strongly opposed to HB 258, the six-week abortion ban.

The six-week ban would prevent patients from having a legal abortion and could put their lives at risk. A perfect example is an estrogen/progesterone positive breast cancer survivor that is a 44-year-old mother of three. She was diagnosed with breast cancer at 42 years old and went through chemotherapy, mastectomy, and radiation.

During the chemotherapy she was deemed menopausal (unable to conceive) and she is expected to take a hormone blocker for at least 10-years to prevent any remaining cancer cells from growing due to estrogen or progesterone. During her final treatment, she begins to feel extremely fatigued and nauseated. She assumes it is the chemotherapy pill that she is taking as an extra precaution to be sure her cancer is gone. After this goes on for two months, she goes to see her oncologist because it is getting worse rather than better. She is pregnant. If this bill passed, she would be too far along to get an abortion. She would be forced to carry a fetus that has been exposed to chemotherapy agents and forced continue a pregnancy that may leave all her children without a mother.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote *NO* on this House Bill 258, a dangerous slippery slope bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

I will now take any questions you may have.