

**Iris E. Harvey
Opposition Testimony of Senate Bill 145
Judiciary Committee
The Ohio Senate
Tuesday, June 27, 2017**

Chairman Bacon, Vice Chair Dolan, Ranking Member Thomas and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 145. My name is Iris E. Harvey, and I am President and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio and Planned Parenthood Advocates of Ohio.

This bill would prohibit the most common method of abortion in the second trimester, effectively outlawing a safe and legal medical procedure. Limiting the options available to medical professionals is not only foolish, it is dangerous. Healthcare decisions should be made by the patient in consultation with a medical professional, not by a politician. One of the sponsors of the bill stated at the bill's first hearing that medical professionals do not set policy – that is exactly the problem here.

It is clear that this bill is part of a larger, systematic attack on a woman's right to control her own reproduction. This substitutes an individual legislator's beliefs – often based on religion – and imposes them on the entire state's population.

What is more, this bill is clearly unconstitutional. The United States Supreme Court has not wavered from its stance that abortion is a protected right, as demonstrated by the *Whole Woman's Health* decision just last year. Despite this, several states have passed similar pieces of legislation, resulting in litigation. The cost to the state in terms of both defending bad legislation and paying attorney's fees to those representing abortion providers has been in the millions. In this time of fiscal recession, is this really the best use of taxpayers' money?

Rather than using state time and resources to pursue individual legislators' extremist agendas, this committee should be focused on healthcare issues that truly matter to Ohioans, such as addressing infant mortality, the STD epidemic, the opiate crisis, and ensuring that the most vulnerable among us have access to adequate healthcare.

At Planned Parenthood, we will continue to provide life-saving health care like breast and cervical cancer screenings, STI treatment and testing, HIV testing and medically accurate sex education programs for women and men in the community who have turned to Planned Parenthood for those safe, reliable, confidential and judgment-free services for years.

It's time to stop criminalizing reproductive health care, interfering with the personal decisions of women, and substituting political agendas for the expertise of health care professionals.