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State Senator Joe Uecker
House Civil Justice Committee
Am. Senate Bill 27
April 9, 2019

Thank you Chairman Hambley, Vice Chair Patton, Ranking Member Brown, and members of the Civil Justice Committee for the opportunity to speak on behalf of Am. Senate Bill 27.

Senate Bill 27 has been before members of this chamber twice. It seeks to honor the unborn by ensuring procedures are in place to properly dispose of aborted fetal remains.

In 2015 it was brought to our attention that the Ohio Revised Code does not contain procedures regarding the disposal of aborted infant remains. In fact, most states lack such policies.

Senate Bill 27 states that any facility in which an abortion is legally preformed, including hospitals can only dispose of aborted remains through the use of cremation or interment. This bill also grants the mother the right to determine the final disposition of the remains. Her decision must be documented in her medical records and the facility is responsible for the cost of the disposal. If the mother chooses not to select a form of disposition the facility will make the determination.

Every effort was made to promote patient privacy in Senate Bill 27. It contains parental consent exemptions already present in current law. The Department of Health will maintain the records of the disposal option. However, records regarding the patient are not public.

Please join me in protecting the dignity of human life. Thank you for your consideration. I am happy to answer any questions.