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Chairman Steve Hambley, Vice Chairman Tom Patton, Ranking Member Richard Brown, and members of the House Civil Justice Committee,

I submit this testimony in support of Amended Senate Bill 27, Regards disposition of fetal remains from surgical abortion

This legislation in one form or another has been before the Ohio legislature each General Assembly since 2015 to address the lack of policies in the Ohio Revised Code regarding the disposition of aborted fetal remains.

As I mentioned in my testimony before the Senate Health, Human Services, and Medicaid Committee, death is a universal experience for all human beings and practically every culture on earth has a system, ritual, and/or set of rules regarding the disposal of the dead. In a many of these cases, the way in which we dispose of the dead come from our desire to show respect. But even if that respect or acknowledgment of the dead as human is lacking, society does understand the common sense health safeguards that must go along with the final disposition of these remains. Most governments, if not all, have recognized the public's interest in the safety and welfare of the proper disposal of human remains.

This legislation is attempting to add structure and policy to this process. This legislation strictly addresses the disposition of the remains. It is not infringing on a woman's right to choose and in no way burdens her choice. The choice has, at this point, been made. However, should the women choose not to exercise her right to determine the final disposition of the remains, the abortion facility will do so. Again, no burden, just her choice not to decide.

The abortion facility will have the ability to decide at that point whether to intern or cremate the remains, both of which, are satisfactory means of disposal which protects the safety and welfare of the public.

This is a cost of doing business, just as we expect doctor offices and hospitals to provide. Abortion facilities should not get preferential treatment. I am familiar with many organizations, like Dayton Right to Life, that have handled the burial of fetal remains as well.

Despite the legal status of abortion in Ohio, Dayton Right to Life firmly believes that SB 27 provides the best possible framework for the disposition of aborted fetal remains that not only protects the public's health interests but also recognizes the norms of our culture in regard to the burial of the dead.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Christie

Executive Director  
Dayton Right to Life  
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