



**Ron Hood**  
**State Representative**

House Health Committee  
HB 68 Sponsor Testimony  
February 26, 2019

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Mr. Chairman and members of the House Health Committee, thank you for allowing me to give testimony to HB 68, the Heartbeat Bill. It is a pleasure and a privilege to come before you, with my joint sponsor Representative Keller, to discuss the merits of this bill with you today.

The Heartbeat Bill makes the simple statement that we, Ohioans, believe that if you have a heartbeat, you have life - life that demands protection.

The Founding Fathers of our country also believed that as human beings, we had the right to life. For example, Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence,

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are **Life**, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

Additionally, in the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution of the United States it is written,

“No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of **life**, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”

The belief that a living human being has rights and value is not a foreign concept. These truths have been espoused since the founding of our nation and before.

A report recently released by the Ohio Department of Health found that there were 20,893 induced abortions in Ohio over the course of 2017. An increase of 1% over the amount of abortions performed in Ohio in 2016. This amounts to approximately two hundred more deaths - two hundred more human beings that were deprived of their right to life.

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I believe that this is a clear indication that merely regulating the practice of abortion has not been effective in saving human lives. The time is now to stem the tide of death and save beating hearts with this bill.

This bill has passed the House multiple times in previous years and has been as close as one vote away from becoming law. Let us send a strong message to the rest of the country, and to the world, that unborn life not only deserves, but also necessitates protection.

Thank you for your time. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.