

Sue Haidle
Senate Bill 23 – Six-Week Abortion Ban
Opponent Testimony
Ohio House Health Committee
March 26, 2019

Chairman Merrin, Vice-Chair Manning, Ranking Minority Member Boyd, and other Members of the House Health Committee,

My spouse is scheduled to have surgery on the day that hearings are to be held regarding SB 23 so I am submitting written opposition testimony. I write in total frustration and disgust at the actions of Republican officials in Ohio who have for more than a decade made it abundantly clear that they don't want Ohioans to have affordable healthcare coverage nor do they want Ohioans to have healthcare services like abortion, STD and HIV tests, cancer screenings, domestic violence education, and maternal and infant health services. As evidence I offer SB 23 — the latest since 2011 in a long line of attacks on abortion and reproductive health care — as well as cuts in Department of Health funding to Planned Parenthood of Ohio, and GOP opposition to the Affordable Care Act.

The Ohio GOP legislates as if abstinence, masturbation and prayer are our only reproductive options. I urge you to do better by the tens of thousands of women AND men who rely upon Planned Parenthood of Ohio and other medical professionals for comprehensive healthcare and reproductive services, and the 7 in 10 Americans who want to preserve and expand our access to abortion and other reproductive services. I urge you to stop shaming women for their healthcare needs and to give them the complete body sovereignty that white men have enjoyed since the beginning of time.

As a 60-year-old white woman, I know at least six girls and women who I hold in love and respect — some teenagers, some college students, some married woman and some married mothers — who chose to have safe, legal abortions. All are thriving today and astute to the fact that SB23 and its supporters are trying to criminalize the medical choices we have the right and capability to make, and are striving to protect in the future for blood and bond sisters.

Women have always had abortions and we always will have abortions. You will never be able to stop us — you can only try to stop safe, legal abortion and endanger our lives.

Women want an imminent future that respects our power, and we want other systematic injustices and barriers — lack of paid leave, lack of affordable, safe and nurturing child care, lack of affordable housing, lack of mass transportation, lack of comprehensive insurance, and inadequate distribution of professional health-care clinics and medical professionals (vs. fake clinics masquerading as pregnancy crisis centers) — to be addressed instead of the continued onslaught of additional dangerous reproductive restrictions. I ask for these issues to be addressed on behalf of my peers as well as people of color, immigrants and LGBTQ communities who have been historically discriminated against, and those who may not have the luxury of time to appear in person to testify or to submit written testimony, who know the risk of detention and deportation, and who have a historical and legitimate distrust of medical experiments and legislative bodies.

We refuse to offer our bodies and life choices as collateral damage in your political aspirations and power trips. We refuse to remain silent as you use our bodies and our life choices as political pawns every day.

I trust Planned Parenthood of Ohio and reproductive justice coalitions around the Midwest and the entire country, to protect patients and underserved communities and to deliver expert reproductive health care and education services, unlike GOP officials backing SB 23 who contribute to Ohio being accurately identified as intolerant, sexist and downright hostile.

Signed,
Sue Haidle
5693 Lismore Ct., Dublin, OH 43017