

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

Chairman Merrin, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Boyd, and Members of the Ohio House Committee,

My name is Marissa Jackson. I am a social work student at the University of Toledo. I am writing to you to express my opposition to SB 23.

When it comes to abortion, and any medical procedure, the decision on whether or not it should be done should be up to the individual and the practitioner. Every case is different. People have different reasons for choosing to have an abortion. Sometimes it is out of medical necessity and sometimes it is due to the individual simply not being ready to have children. There are a variety of reasons. This bill would take the decision away from the practitioner and the individual.

Another reason for my opposition is that most women do not know they are pregnant at six weeks. If this bill were to pass, it would take the option away from many people. They cannot get an abortion if they do not know they are pregnant. By the time they do discover they are pregnant, it would be illegal for them to get an abortion. This takes that option off the table for them. This can be especially harmful to women living in poverty. It is less likely that they will have the tools available to discover they are pregnant early on due to their inability to afford them. Pregnancy tests can be expensive and give false negatives. A lot of women in poverty do not have health insurance and cannot afford to see a doctor, therefore, they will be the ones to suffer the most due to the passage of this bill.

Lastly, before Roe v. Wade, women were still getting abortions. This bill would make it harder for women to get abortions, but it would still happen. It would just happen in unsafe conditions. There would be an increase in the number of women dying from the procedure and there would most likely be an increase in the number of unlicensed abortion providers. Women would get desperate, just like they did before Roe. v. Wade, and they would get abortions in any way that they could. This bill would make it harder to get abortions, but not impossible.

No one gets pregnant just so they can get an abortion. Abortion is done due to women not having any other option for themselves. It is done to save the woman's life, whether that be medically, mentally, or financially. Children are expensive and not everyone can afford to care for them properly.

I urge you to vote against SB 23 to help keep the women in Ohio safe.

Sincerely,

Marissa Jackson