

Carolyn Ladd
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, I am submitting my testimony in writing as I work full-time and cannot attend the hearing. Thank you for allowing me to submit my point of view.

My name is Carolyn Ladd. I am Vice President of Strategy at a large global marketing company with offices in Cincinnati, Ohio. I am married and have two daughters. And, I am strongly opposed to the Senate Bill 23 Six-Week Abortion Ban.

Making a decision to have an abortion is personal decision between partner and wife, a woman and God, and a woman and her own soul. No woman I know who has sought an abortion viewed it a trivial decision. It is soul wrenching. The facts are that most Americans do support the right for a women to choose.

- **The majority, 72 percent, of Americans support choice for an abortion.** The facts are that nearly three-quarters of Americans—72 percent—do not want to see Roe v. Wade overturned. This includes a majority of Democrats, Republicans, and Independents. Americans are much more united on this issue than divisive rhetoric would make it seem.
- In fact, 56 percent of all voters across the country can imagine a time when an abortion might be the best option for themselves or a partner.
- An even greater majority, **86 percent, say that they would support a friend or family member in having an abortion.**
- See: PerryUndem Research Communication, 45 Years After Roe v. Wade (Jan. 11, 2018), available at <https://view.publitas.com/perryundem-research-communication/perryundem-report-on-public-opinion-towardabortion/page/9>

There are countless reasons why women need to have a choice and why this six week restriction is an onerous to women. Specifically:

- This bill could take away a woman's right to make her own medical decisions before she would have known she had a decision to make. The goal of supporters of this legislation is to eliminate all safe and legal abortion in Ohio and to bring a case to the U.S. Supreme Court to directly challenge Roe v. Wade. Roe v. Wade is settled law. There is no other legislation that attempts to control decisions a person makes for his or her body.
- Make no mistake: this bill is intended to ban almost all abortion in Ohio. It is important that abortion remain a safe and legal medical procedure for a woman to consider if or when she needs it. The truth is that abortion is a critical component not only of women's health care, but of their ability to lead free and fulfilling lives with dignity and autonomy. Whether rape, incest, danger to a mother or child's health banning safe abortion is a bad choice.
- Women don't turn to politicians for advice about mammograms, prenatal care or cancer treatments. Politicians should not be involved in a woman's personal medical decisions about her pregnancy.

Banning abortion does not eliminate abortion; it just makes it less safe and puts pregnant women and their families at risk. I am requesting that you do not support Senate Bill 23 Six-Week Abortion Ban.

Regards,

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