

Amy Miller
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,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Amy Miller. I am a 37 year old Ohio resident. I work at the Cincinnati Zoo in the reproductive sciences, and Planned Parenthood has always been a major part of my life; as has the right to choose. Currently, my husband and I are trying to conceive our second child. As much as I do not want to think about it, the right to have an abortion is a very important part of this process. It is possible that after a milestone of pregnancy (20 weeks) we could find out that a child that we tried to conceive and that we would love, has too many gross deformities to continue, and we would have to abort. No family should be forced to carry a child to term if the child has a high risk of not living past their first day. Also, every family should be able to choose whether the disabilities a child might have are within their means (emotionally and financially) to accept. This is one of the many reasons that I am strongly opposed to Ohio SB23.

This bill is dangerous for many reasons. One, for the reason I listed above. 2, because it will not stop abortions; it will just drive them underground, endangering the lives of women¹. This is the main reason we made abortion safe and legal in the first place. This bill would put us back into the dark ages, and it will not stop abortions.

Most women do not even know that they are pregnant by six-weeks. This bill would allow them zero time to make any decisions about their lives, and their bodies. This bill directly contradicts the idea that women are allowed autonomy over their own bodies. Politicians should NOT be involved in these types of decisions; it should be between a woman and her healthcare provider.

This bill would also cause Ohio taxpayers a large amount of money in litigation since many cases will be taken to the Supreme Court if this bill is passed. This would be an unconstitutional bill that goes against *Roe v Wade*, and women will likely not take this sitting down. Other states that have tried this have been struck down, leaving on average of a 1.2 million dollar price tag in taxpayer money.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote *NO* on this dangerous bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

I will now take any questions you may have.

1. Rachel Benson Gold, Guttmacher Institute, *Lessons from Before Roe: Will Past Be Prologue?* (March 2003), available at <https://www.guttmacher.org/gpr/2003/03/lessons-roe-will-past-be-prologue>.