

Dear Ohio Legislators:

I wish I could be at the capital in person to make this statement, but unfortunately, my job and previously scheduled family obligations make that impossible. Accordingly, I am writing because I strenuously oppose the heartbeat bill. I am a very private person by nature, especially when talking about my fertility, but after much thought and consideration I decided this issue is too important to remain silent. **If the heartbeat bill is passed, all you legislators and the State of Ohio will be responsible for taking away my ability to have biological children.**

I am a married woman in my 40s. My husband and I have tried to do everything in the “correct” order; we went to college, we got white-collar jobs, we got married, we waited to have children until we were more established in our careers and financially stable, and then started trying to have kids... Unfortunately, after years of trying, the having kids part has not worked out for us so far. We have been working with fertility specialists and are still hoping to have biological children some day. Due to my age and fertility issues, however, my doctors have warned me if I get pregnant, it would be considered a high-risk pregnancy.

If the heartbeat bill is passed, my husband and I will be forced to make a heart-breaking decision to either put my life at risk to continue trying to have biological children, or give up on our dream to ensure my personal safety. We will be forced to make that decision now, before we get pregnant, because the heartbeat bill will rip away my doctor’s and my ability to make informed decisions about what is right for MY personal health and MY pregnancy. There are a lot of unknowns with any pregnancy and mine would be high-risk. Taking away my ability to make informed decisions with my doctor would very realistically put my life at risk. My husband and I are currently not willing to gamble with my life in that way.

I am angry that you legislators and the State of Ohio are putting my life and other Ohio women’s lives in jeopardy by taking away our right to make informed decisions with our doctors about our bodies. If the heartbeat bill is passed, The State of Ohio will be taking away MY ability to make decisions about MY body and will be taking away my ability to safely have biological children, and that is NOT RIGHT. I am a living, breathing human-being and I, with the help of my doctors, should be the only person involved in making decisions about what is best for me, my body and my children, should I be blessed with getting pregnant- NOT any legislators and NOT the State of Ohio. That is why I strenuously oppose the heartbeat bill and hope you all do the right thing and vote AGAINST passing the heartbeat bill.

Sincerely,

Stacie and Mike  
Lakewood, OH