



John Becker- *State Representative, 65th District*

Sponsor Testimony for House Bill 182

Insurance Committee of the 133rd General Assembly

Chairman Brinkman, Vice Chairman Antani, Ranking Member Boggs, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 182.

Currently, Ohioans who participate in health plans have no assurance in Ohio law that their insurance premiums are financially separate from insurance coverage of abortion services. This bill will save lives by prohibiting insurance companies from covering abortion services. This bill does not apply to private-sector self-insured companies, nor does it prohibit any entity from directly paying for their employees' abortion services.

There is no debate regarding the humanness of an embryo. Each person's DNA establishes the scientific evidence for this assertion. The question regarding the abortion debate has to do with personhood. That is, at what point during the growth and maturation process should a human being achieve personhood with full human rights?

Generally speaking, there are only three legitimate reasons to take a human life:

- War.
- Capital punishment after due process of law.
- Self-defense.

An example of self-defense, related to this bill, would be the treatment of an ectopic pregnancy. This is also known as a tubal pregnancy. If not treated, the mother and her child will both die. This is an example of a life of the mother exception.

As demonstrated by the enactment of the Heartbeat Law, Ohio's public policy is that we respect innocent human life.

Please join me in protecting the conscience rights of Ohio's insurance policyholders by removing abortion services from insurance coverage in our state.

Once again, I would like to thank the committee members for your consideration, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.