

Larry Obhof
Senate President

Statehouse
1 Capital Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Obhof@ohiosenate.gov
614-466-7505



Matt Huffman
Senate Majority Floor Leader

Ohio Senate
1 Capital Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Huffman@ohiosenate.gov
614-466-7584

Sponsor Testimony on Senate Resolution 41

Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee

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Chairman Burke, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee, thank you for allowing us the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Resolution 41.

This resolution will urge the United States Congress to enact a Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. Such an act would require health care practitioners to administer the same degree of medical care to an infant that survives an abortion as they would to any other newborn child. The resolution before you today acknowledges the simple fact that, regardless of the circumstances surrounding his or her birth, every child deserves our compassion and care.

In 2002, a related bill introduced by Congressman Steve Chabot of Cincinnati was signed into law. That law extended the legal definition of personhood to include infants born alive following an abortion. This year, Senator Ben Sasse of Nebraska introduced S. 130, which would require a health care provider to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion. Thus far, the U.S. Senate has not given the bill a vote. In fact, in February the bill failed to muster enough votes to overcome a filibuster, even though there is little doubt the bill would pass if it receives a floor vote. Senate Resolution 41 is straightforward and simple. It urges Congress to enact a Born-Alive Survivors Protection Act, instead of using procedural rules to block a bill that we believe would pass. We can think of no higher goal than to ensure that those least able to defend themselves – newborn children – are allowed at least a fighting chance at life.

We have and will continue to debate the issue of abortion. Indeed, this committee has heard hours of testimony on the matter over the previous weeks. Surely we can all agree that a newborn infant, a living breathing child, should have claim to the same protections and professional care that are afforded to any child. As legislators, it is our duty to protect the sanctity of human life and to urge others to do the same. That is what this resolution seeks to accomplish.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on this resolution. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.