

Senate Bill 155 Testimony

October 13, 2019

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Chairman Burke and other esteemed members of this Senate Health Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today, in support of Senate Bill #155. I am a licensed OBGYN provider in the state of Ohio for the last 35 years. As in all aspects of medicine, physicians are required by law to provide informed consent for any surgeries, procedures and medications we administer. We are obligated to provide risks, benefits, as well as alternatives to the procedure or drug. We must elaborate on what to expect if the patient complies with treatment, as well as outcomes if she does not complete the treatment.

Physicians providing medical abortion must be diligent in their duty to provide comprehensive education regarding the risk of the abortion drugs. They should provide factual information about how the drugs work, as well as truthful information about what should happen if the abortion regimen is not completed. Included in this education, should be the FDA reassurances that no specific birth defects are caused by the use of the Mifeprex if the abortion is not completed with Step#2. Inappropriate scare tactics are often used to dissuade patients who change their minds after the first step, insinuating that a terrible deformity will ensue unless she completes the process. In addition, complete disclosure about the availability of progesterone needs to be provided, should the patient experience regret. Time is of the essence when a patient changes her mind and needs access to life-saving progesterone. This information MUST be provided before the first drug is given.

I am aware that these same women have exercised their choice in choosing abortion in the first place, but their abortion regret is common and intensely real. Opioid addicts choose to use opioids, but we feel so strongly that their lives are still worth saving, that we offer them reversal by the administration of Narcan. We make the access and education about Narcan mandatory in every situation in our state. We give them the chance for reversal, even without their consent. These abortion-minded women have made their choice, then regretted it and have requested reversal. This cannot be denied to them.

Progesterone is safe in almost all situations, reverses the effects of the Mifeprex, and does not cause birth defects. It is already being used in high-risk pregnancies in every office and clinic in this state that provides prenatal care.

These women are asking for a second chance at life. It is our obligation to ensure that they know of this option and that we make this option available to them. That is the true meaning of CHOICE.