



**TESTIMONY OF:**

Elizabeth Brown

Executive Director

The Ohio Women's Public Policy Network

**IN OPPOSITION OF:**

Senate Bill 155

Senate Health, Human Services & Medicaid Committee

Chair Burke, Vice-Chair Huffman, Ranking Minority Member Antonio, and distinguished members of the Senate Health, Human Services & Medicaid Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to Ohio Senate Bill 155.

My name is Elizabeth Brown and I serve as the Executive Director of the Ohio Women's Public Policy Network, a coalition of more than 30 organizations working collaboratively to advocate for public policies that build economic opportunity for women and families.

We believe that the measure of success for our state and communities is in large part determined by the success of our women. Therefore, policymakers must advance public policies centered in equity, fairness, and justice that address the following issue areas:

1. Promoting an economic security agenda for women;
2. Ensuring fairness and opportunity in the workplace; and
3. Improving women's health and well-being

These shared goals shaped our interest in testifying today against Senate Bill 155. The passage of this legislation stands in fundamental opposition to all three of our public policy interests, especially our goal to improve the health and wellbeing of women. Because we know that all women deserve the opportunity to lead economically secure, safe and healthy lives, **we strongly urge the committee to reject this dangerous bill.**

Since 2011, there have been more than 20 restrictions to reproductive health care and abortion access enacted into law in the state of Ohio. These medically unnecessary and dangerous restrictions have chipped away at the accessibility and affordability of obtaining an abortion in Ohio, creating new hurdles for women to access abortion care.

With the passage of each new limitation, lawmakers have interfered directly with Ohioans' health care decisions, put women's health and lives at risk, and stigmatized abortion and the medical professionals who provide that care. Senate Bill 155 is no exception, and it takes the interference between women and their doctors to a shocking new level.

This legislation would force medical professionals to inform patients seeking a medication abortion about an incredible, unresearched, and unproven theory of so-called “abortion reversal” treatment. Under the false guise or “informed consent,” the bill would mandate that the health care provider give their patients printed materials and provide oral instructions about this untested procedure.

Healthcare practices should *always* be rooted in fact, science, and medical accuracy, but that is simply not the case for Senate Bill 155. As it stands, the broader medical community does not know the effectiveness or safety of this so-called “reversal” treatment, and the potential risks and side effects are still largely unknown. The studies which serve as the foundation of this bill are severely limited in number and scope, and they face significant shortfalls and limitations, such as their failure to include a comparison group or appropriate oversight by an ethics committee.

Trusted and credible medical groups, such as The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), have not supported the so-called abortion “reversal” as unproven and unethical, and do not recommend its usage. And while the protocol for medication abortion is regulated by The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), this so-called “abortion reversal” treatment has not been evaluated by the FDA. This alone should discredit this procedure as unproven science and dangerous medical practice that our state legislature has no place mandating into doctors’ offices.

Women should be allowed to make clear and informed choices about their reproductive health options, with the guidance of medical professionals, not lawmakers. But, by forcing health care professionals to provide untested and medically inaccurate information, which could potentially cause harm to their patients’ health, this legislative body is once again inserting themselves into the trusted relationship of doctors and patients.

When women are making decisions about their health care, they deserve medically accurate and unbiased information. It is clear that Senate Bill 155, which is rooted in misinformation and unproven research, fails to meet that standard, **and we strongly urge the committee to reject this misguided and potentially dangerous legislation.**

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify. I am available to answer any questions today or by email at [lizcbrown@gmail.com](mailto:lizcbrown@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

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