

Chairman Burke, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Ohio Senate Health, Human Services, and Medicaid Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to present testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 155. My name is Dr. Anita Somani, and I am a physician in Columbus and a board member of Planned Parenthood Advocates of Ohio. I have been here testifying before because as an ObGyn who has practiced in Columbus for over 25 years I want the law to support the best care we can give our patients.

As a physician, I am disturbed by the lack of scientific or medical evidence considered in the crafting of Senate Bill 155 (SB 155). If passed, this bill would force doctors like myself to give our patients information that medical experts consider to be unfounded. The American Medical Association has said that laws such as SB 155 are "simply false and not backed up by science," while the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists have withheld their support for the idea of "abortion pill reversal," because it is "not based in science and doesn't meet clinical standards." By supporting this bill you as a government representative are forcing me as a doctor to experiment on pregnant women.

The FDA-approved drug regimen for a medication abortion is a combination of two drugs, mifepristone and misoprostol. The FDA has not approved the procedure being pushed in SB 155. Codifying in our law the unproven claim that prescribing progesterone can stop a medical abortion would impose unethical, state-sponsored experimentation on pregnant people in Ohio. This is contradictory to the Hippocrates oath that physicians take.

SB 155 disrupts the patient-provider relationship, not only in the misinformation it mandates us to present, but in the opportunity it creates for patients who provide their informed consent to a medication abortion, and whose pregnancy is subsequently terminated, to claim that they weren't informed that the abortion may be reversed, and sue their physician. Patients should not be able to sue physicians for providing abortion services for which they provided their full consent.

SB 155 wages a dangerous misinformation campaign whose only apparent goal seems to be misleading and coercing patients who are making a private medical decision, and opening abortion providers up to costly litigation. Ohio patients deserve fact-based health care information from the credentialed medical professionals they entrust with their health and wellbeing; and they deserve elected officials who utilize facts and expert consultation when drafting legislation that impacts their ability to access health care services and information.

In this state, there continues to be a third party present in our health center exam rooms: Ohio legislators whose sole goal is to push access to safe and legal abortion out of reach. It's well past time to get politics out of the patient-provider relationship, and allow people to make factually informed decisions about their own health care.

I urge you to vote no on Senate Bill 155, the unethical, dangerous, and medically-inaccurate Medical Misinformation Act. Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.