

Chairman Burke, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present proponent testimony today on SB 260 legislation that would ban the practice of telemedicine for the purpose of prescribing abortion-inducing drugs.

My name is Gabriel Vance and I am from Galena, OH. I am a first a Catholic Christian, a father of three, and a full-time missionary fighting for human rights. I work as the Director of External Affairs for Created Equal, the organization I am representing today. Created Equal is an anti-abortion national organization based in Columbus, OH that focuses on training students to be human rights defenders. Each year we lead hundreds of outreaches, to help as many realize as possible that elective abortion intentionally kills preborn humans.

As a concerned Ohio citizen and defender of human rights, I urge the committee to vote in support of SB 260. I ask the committee to vote in favor of banning telemedicine abortions for several important reasons. The most commonly used abortion pill regiment of Mifepristone and Misoprostol has proven to be dangerous for mothers. The use of telemedicine can only encourage the dangerous and criminal activity of selling abortion pills through unregulated online pharmacies. We should do all we can to reduce and restrict procedures that intentionally kill innocent human beings.

Of course, abortion inducing drugs are deadly for preborn humans, but they are also deadly and dangerous for the mothers who are taking them. According to the FDA, 24 women died from a range of complications induced by the abortion drugs including liver failure, sepsis, toxic shock syndrome and hemorrhaging.

The FDA report stated that between 2000–2012, there were 2740 cases of reported complications associated with the abortion drugs. The past five years witnessed an average of 289 complications annually which included 273 hospitalizations, 103 infections and 182 cases of blood loss resulting in urgent transfusions. The bill's sponsor, Sen. Stephen Huffman, a physician himself, is well aware of the dangers of these drugs and has stated that "It is a doctor's duty to ensure that patients are not exposed to greater risk by recklessly dispensing drugs that are known to have life-threatening consequences."

On top of the fact that chemical abortion is dangerous in and of itself, many abortion providers have continually show that they do not prioritize the health of the mother. Look no further than the grotesque cases of Dr. Kermit Gosnell who murdered born babies and killed and severely harmed women for profit or Dr. Ulrich Klopfer who kept thousands of dismembered human beings in a garage and car trunk or Dr. Michael Roth who performed illegal abortions outside of medical settings and kept the disemboweled and decapitated bodies of preborn humans in his car.

You may think these are rare cases, but look at the deaths of mothers and unbelievable violations of the abortion facilities in our own state. Tia Parks died one day after her abortion at Preterm in Cleveland, OH, where staff neglected to detect a second pregnancy in her fallopian tube. Lakisha Wilson died after going into cardiac arrest at Preterm. Preterm has cited by the Ohio Department of Health for faulty record keeping of bleeding women who required ambulance transport, failing to have a physical sign abortion procedure records, and many other violations. Founders Women's Health Center in Columbus, OH ignored or failed to note that the preborn human was implanted in a mother's fallopian tube instead of her uterus after two ultrasounds and an abortion. The mother sued the doctor after she had to have an emergency hysterectomy and can never have children again. Founders also hired Dr. Thomas Michaelis who was a convicted child sex offender to examine underage girls and young women. The list could go on with dozens of Ohio abortionists who have hurt women and violated health codes in very avoidable ways if only women's well-being was in their best interest. Many of them have proven it is not though, so how can we entrust them with doing even less supervised and remote telemedicine abortions?

Allowing remote telemedicine abortions can only fuel the abortion lobby's continual promotion the unsupervised sale of abortion drugs. While the use of telemedicine does not logically prove that non-prescription online shipments will increase, this is a probable outcome and we should consider the ramifications.

Abortion pills can be easily ordered online in a matter of minutes by anyone for as cheap as \$90. After referrals from publications like Vice and Vox, I was one click away from completing the process myself a few days ago. Abortion supporters readily promote unregulated online pharmacies that sell and ship dangerous abortion drugs to women in America, across the world, even in countries where abortion is illegal. The majority of these websites have no physician oversight and give tips on how to cover-up the evidence that would point to an illegal abortion. Aid Access is the only physician-ran website that the pro-abortion group "Plan C" promotes, is in direct violation of the authority of the FDA. These markets are deadly to preborn humans and dangerous to born women. The British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology found that 11% of women who order abortion pills online needed surgery due to complications.

As the demand for abortion pills being shipped to your home, whether through telemedicine or online stores, increases, so will complications and crimes. We have already seen examples of this.

Jeffrey Smith, a Wisconsin man, was charged with attempted first-degree intentional homicide of an unborn child after he ordered abortion pills online from a pro-abortion activist in New York and slipped the pills into his girlfriend's drink attempting to kill her 20-week-old child.

More recently, a similar crime occurred in our own state. Last week, Kalina Gillum, 21, and Braden Mull, 25, appeared in court in Licking County, facing charges after they ordered medications online to abort their 28-week old baby. The baby died and was left in shoe box in a trash bag in their apartment in September. They have both been indicted on one count each of involuntary manslaughter, child endangering, tampering with evidence, and abuse of a corpse. Gillum took 12 pills of Misoprostol, a medication commonly used in medical abortions, to induce labor, end her pregnancy, and kill her baby boy. Police found the murdered child, after the hospital notified law officials when Gillum was admitted due to complications from the abortion.

I think we would all look at this case of a lifeless baby in a trash bag as a horrendous crime, but why do we see the choice of these parents to intentionally kill their child as any different from parents taking the abortion pill regiment prescribed by an abortion facility or telemedicine and the mother delivering her dead child in a toilet during a legal abortion? If this couple would have gone to the abortion mill, the death of their son would not be a story and they would not be in jail. Cases like this should make us stop and think about legal abortion. We must decide whether it is right or wrong to intentionally kill preborn humans despite the legality of the method used, which brings me to my final point.

Whether or not abortion-inducing drugs have killed and injured mothers, whether or not allowing abortionists to prescribe these life-threatening drugs using telecommunications, instead of seeing patients in person, will only increase the complications, whether or not the use of telemedicine will encourage mothers, or fathers like Jeffrey Smith, to take the faster, easier, and cheaper route of ordering abortion inducing drugs from online markets, elective abortion intentionally kills an innocent human being. Because of this, our lawmakers should do all they can to reduce and restrict any form of elective abortion.

Over 336,000 innocent human beings up to 8 weeks gestation are killed by chemical abortions each year in America, according to the Guttmacher Institute's most recent statistics. These unique, living human beings with beating hearts, hands, feet and faces are starved from the nutrients they need to survive, delivered in toilets and flushed down drains. Tiny human corpses, little children abandoned by their parents, are left in sewage buried in human waste.

Please see the image I included produced by the Mayo Clinic which shows a human being at 8 weeks gestation. There is also an actual photograph of a human at this stage. The third image is a photograph taken by a mother named Christina who had an abortion at 7 weeks gestation. The photo is of her dead child.

Christina was nine weeks pregnant when she went to Planned Parenthood at the urging of her fiancé. She already had a four-month-old baby at home, and her health was poor. Christina describes her experience, "The counselor asked me if I was being forced into it.

Asked me if I was making this decision 100% on my own. She advised me to make sure this was what I wanted. She then proceeded to tell me that the process will be pretty easy... and that I wouldn't see anything. They didn't ever use the word baby. They always just said "it" or "tissue" or "the process". They never said anything about the level of development. They did tell me it would be too small to see anything.

"The pill was not at all what Planned Parenthood told me it would be. They said I would feel like heavy period. It felt like HELL! It was worse than labor with my son. Within two hours of taking the second set of pills I had the baby in the toilet. When I turned around there it was in the sack and everything. I broke open the sack and held the helpless little baby in my hand. I cried and felt like I had just murdered someone so innocent.

"I regretted it 100% after that night. Nothing can truly prepare you for an abortion no matter what route you take. I'm still struggling with it and have nightmares about it all the time. I always ask myself, 'what if I never did it?'

"Ever since that night I felt horrible and ashamed. I have another son, and it breaks my heart to think I could have two right now. ... I wish more people could know what a baby really looks like at 9 weeks. ONLY 9 WEEKS."

It is a scientific fact that Christina and every woman who has an abortion is pregnant with a whole, living, distinct human beings. Dr. C. Ward Kischer, Professor Emeritus of Human Embryology of the University of Arizona School of Medicine, Dr. C. Ward Kischer, affirms that "Every human embryologist, worldwide, states that the life of the new individual human being begins at fertilization (conception)." In a recent study completed by Dr. Stephen Jacobs at the University of Chicago, 96% of 5,577 biologists from around the world affirm that human life begins at fertilization. According to the study, the sample of biologists was predominantly non-religious (63 percent), with more liberals (89 percent) than conservatives (11 percent), with more Democrats (92 percent) than Republicans (8 percent) out of the American biologists, and pro-choice supporters (85 percent) than pro-life supporters (15 percent). Prominent abortion supporters like Dr. Peter Singer and Dr. David Boonin and even the abortionists that commit the killing themselves, like Dr. Willie Parker and Dr. Leroy Carhart, state that abortion intentionally kills an innocent human. If you think that abortion does not kill human beings or you refuse to readily admit this, you are choosing to ignore a clear modern scientific consensus because doing this would prick your conscience and urge you to change your pro-abortion beliefs.

Yes, the innocent humans killed in elective abortions are different than you and I. They are smaller, less developed, in a different environment, and more dependent on another human than you and me, but every toddler and many other born humans differ in these ways. We do not believe born humans with these differences are any less human, less of a person or should be killed if older people desire their deaths. If we do not oppress born humans because of these differences, then we cannot logically and

morally discriminate against preborn humans because of them. If we support discriminating against humans simply because of their age, we are ageist and fall into the company of those who are sexist or racist. Every human being deserves to have his or her personhood acknowledged by the law despite arbitrary differences outside of their control like race, sex, and age.

Many mothers with born children find themselves in terrible unbelievable circumstances, my mother who had a daughter at 16 years old was one of them, but we would never allow these mothers to starve or violently kill their children as the solution, so we cannot allow preborn children to be killed as a solution either. We must forgive, love, support and care for mothers, but we must not give in to the lie that women need a medical procedure to be equal, that women must intentionally kill another human to be happy and successful. Women and mothers deserve greater respect than such a demeaning view.

It is always wrong to intentionally kill an innocent human being, elective abortion always does this, so elective abortion is always wrong. The preborn are humans and humans are equal despite our many differences. One cannot believe in human rights and stand for human equality while supporting legal abortion. You must choose. Human equality or the legal killing of innocent humans in abortion. You can't have both.

This is why any senator and congressman across our nation with a well-formed conscience must do all they can to reduce and ban the intentional killing of helpless, defenseless humans in abortion, including banning the practice of telemedicine abortions which SB 260 will do.

If I may make one last point. If anyone here is in an unplanned pregnancy, knows a scared mother who is, or finds themselves or someone else in one in the future, know that there are dozens of free pregnancy resource centers in Ohio, much outnumbering the 9 abortion facilities. There are also dozens of groups where women and men who have aborted their children, like Chistina, can find forgiveness and healing in the infinite mercy and love of God, made available to us through the incarnation, life, passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ who is true man and true God. Visit [OptionLine.org](http://OptionLine.org) to learn more. Many of you who support abortion here today, may support legal abortion in order to justify the abortion that killed your own baby, took the life of a sibling, a grandchild, a niece or a friend's baby. I urge you to follow the path of repentance, healing and freedom, and not the path that leads to more humans being killed and people with eternal souls being gravely wounded.

Abortion-inducing drugs kill innocent, preborn humans and are very dangerous to mothers. These drugs have led to the deaths of hundreds-of-thousands of human beings, including two dozen mothers. They will encourage dangerous, unregulated online markets and the number of dead children, and injured mothers will rise.

I urge you all to vote in support of SB 260 and to sincerely consider your own stance on elective abortion- an act that murders human beings- humans just like me, just like you Chairman Burke, just like you Vice Chair Huffman, just like you Ranking Member Antonio, just like you Senator Gavarone, just like you Senator Hackett, just like you Senator Hottinger, just like you Senator Kunze, just like you Senator Lehner, just like you Senator Roegner, just like you Senator Schuring, just like you Senator Maharath, just like you Senator Thomas.

Abortion kills one human every 36 seconds in America, more humans than any other cause of death, and 57 humans every day in our great state of Ohio. What other issue could be more important for our laws to address? Be not afraid to take a stand for human rights and change your voting on this issue. The lives of innocent people, created in the image and likeness of God, depend on it. May God have mercy on us, and may He bless America and each one of you.

Chairman Burke and members of the committee, I will be happy to answer any questions you may have; and, if you would like the sources of any evidence I included in my testimony, I will be happy to send it to you by email.

Image 1:



Image 3:



Image 2:

