

Melissa Malin
Senate Bill 260 – Telemedicine Abortion Ban
Opponent Testimony
Ohio Senate Health, Human Services, and Medicaid Committee
February 26, 2020

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 260.

I am writing to express my concern if SB 260, the Telemedicine Abortion Ban gets passed. Working with teenagers, most of them being very low income and already with so many things against them, including lack of healthcare, it is scary to think they could also lose their choice to an abortion. These teens have a very difficult time accessing birth control and condoms and don't have great health education even when they do have access to birth control. Many of them are being "talked in to" having sex at very early ages in high risk home situations. I have never met a teen who would prefer to get an abortion over getting pregnant in the first place, but that isn't going to change until we have better access to birth control to everyone and less health discrepancies. Even then pregnancies will still happen. These girls instead of being happy about a pregnancy, feel alone and stuck because of a pregnancy. An abortion gives them a small amount of control over their health and the direction of their lives. Taking away the choice of abortion for teens and women of all ages is taking away their control of their future and that is not fair. We should be supporting women instead of trying to take support from them.

Thank you and take care,
Melissa Malin