



Kayla Atchison, Director of External Affairs
House Bill 470- Proponent
House Health and Aging Committee
May 3, 2016

Chair Gonzales, Vice-chair Huffman, ranking member Antonio, and distinguished members of the Health and Aging committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today on House Bill 470. My name is Kayla Atchison and I am the director of External Affairs for Ohio Right to Life. On behalf of Ohio Right to Life Society, I am here to testify in support of HB 470.

If enacted House Bill 470 will improve clinical outcomes and increase continuity of care by giving the Ohio Department of Health the authority to license palliative care facilities.

Daily, Ohio Right to Life seeks to advance the fundamental right to life for every human person. We do this by proposing protections and standards that reflect a culture that honors the dignity of life from conception until natural death. Ohio Right to Life believes that each human being has intrinsic dignity, and value, regardless of age, physical or mental condition, or state of dependency.

The intent of palliative care is to improve the quality of life for both the patient and their family through increased care and assistance.

There is medical evidence, several which have been cited in this committee, that palliative care has led to better outcomes for patients and families. These life sustaining and enhancing measures are consistent with our mission to protect and promote life. House Bill 470 maintains clear and strong protections for the elderly, the disabled, and the chronically ill.

Ohio Right to Life fully supports legislation that provides legal safeguards for human life, no matter the stage or situation. Thank you for your time and consideration. We respectfully ask for a favorable passage.