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House Criminal Justice Committee
S.B. 145 – Sponsor Testimony

Chairman Manning, Vice Chair Rezabek, Ranking Member Celebrezze, and members of the Criminal Justice Committee, thank you for offering us the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 145, which would prohibit the gruesome procedure of dismemberment abortion in the State of Ohio.

As you may know, one of the procedures used to perform abortions is the dilation and evacuation process, commonly known as a dismemberment abortion. In this operation, the technician first dilates the woman's cervix and then uses steel instruments to dismember and extract the baby from the uterus. The baby is then ripped apart and removed from the uterus piece by piece.

This procedure normally takes place at 13 to 24 weeks into a pregnancy. At that point, pain receptors are developing in the baby's body, and the baby responds directly to touch. The Ohio Department of Health reported that nearly 3,000 dilation and evacuation abortions were performed in 2015 alone. We must come together to end this horrible procedure of dismemberment abortion.

Similar legislation prohibiting the dismemberment abortion procedure has already been enacted in seven other states. It is also important to note that this legislation includes an exception on the prohibition in cases where the life and/or physical health of the mother is determined to be at risk.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this legislation. If you have any questions regarding our testimony, we would be happy to answer them now.