

The Honorable Representative Nathan H. Manning  
Chairman, House Criminal Justice Committee  
77 S. High St  
12th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

February 13, 2018

Dear Representative Manning and Members of the Criminal Justice Committee:

I am a board-certified Pediatrician and Adolescent Medicine specialist practicing in Columbus, Ohio. As a physician who cares for patients in Ohio, I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 145. This bill represents a dangerous intrusion into medical practice, and could prevent my patients from accessing critical care.

By attempting to outlaw the standard D&E abortion procedure, this bill would make it a crime for Ohio physicians to provide individualized care based on each patient's unique needs and circumstances, a cornerstone of the patient-provider relationship. Every pregnancy, and every patient, is different; for many patients, a D&E abortion is the standard of care. In these cases, this bill would put providers in the unconscionable position of having to deny a woman the compassionate, safe, medically-proven option that is best for her circumstances. Physicians must be able to use their medical judgment to provide the best care for each patient, without legislative interference.

Like all primary care physicians, I see patients with a wide range of needs, including abortion. Often, my patients seeking abortion are facing complex personal or medical circumstances that cannot be anticipated by politicians. Throughout their pregnancies, my patients must be able to make their own decisions about their health care with the advice of the medical professionals they trust - without interference from politicians. I urge you to reject Senate Bill 145.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elise Berlan".

Elise Berlan, MD, MPH  
Bexley, Ohio