



## Senate Bill 23 Sponsor Testimony

Senator Lou Terhar  
House Health Committee  
March 15, 2017

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Health Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify today on behalf of Senate Bill 23.

Senate Bill 23 will designate January 31st as Omphalocele Awareness Day. A constituent told me her story of this rare birth defect that occurs in one out of every 5,000 live births for small types and one out of every 10,000 live births for large type omphaloceles. An omphalocele is an abdominal wall defect that occurs when an infant's organs grow outside of the body, and this almost always requires surgery to correct. A recent study found that 75% of omphaloceles were diagnosed by ultrasound, most commonly between weeks 12 to 18 of pregnancy. Because it is rare, many parents are left with questions and concerns about their child's future.

SB 23 intends to raise awareness of Omphaloceles because there have been astounding medical advances in recent years that allow children born with this condition to live normal, healthy lives. These medical procedures can be more difficult to access for families who live farther away from major children's hospitals, so increased awareness is especially important for those individuals. The goal of this bill is to make parents informed of all their options and more confident during pregnancy.

Chairman Huffman, I thank you again for allowing me to testify on behalf of Senate Bill 23. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.