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**Testimony in Support of SB28
House Health Committee
February 14, 2018**

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Antonio & committee members:

Thank you for allowing me to testify before you today. I am here to support SB28, the Unborn Child Dignity Act regarding the disposal of fetal remains.

The question of when human life begins is not in dispute. It is accepted scientific fact that a new human life begins at the moment of conception. What is in dispute is whether or not anyone should have the right to terminate that new human life while it is still in it's mother's womb, before it even has a chance to take a breath. You will often hear abortion advocates say that this new life is not a baby, that it is only a blob of tissue. They are correct to say that it is not a baby. The word "baby" is a developmental term. The new human life goes through several stages before it reaches the developmental term of "baby" at birth. This bill correctly refers to the developmental terms of

- zygote—the stage immediately after fertilization when the cells start to split;
- blastocyte—the second stage of development which takes place about 1-2 weeks after the new life was formed;
- embryo—which is recognizable about 4 weeks after the new life begins and when rudimentary organs are already in place; and

- fetus—the stage at which the new life looks more like a baby. It carries this term to birth, when it actually is named a baby.
- The word “baby” is used as a developmental term, and it is also used in common terms as well to describe the developing child in the womb at all stages of development.

The medical terms for the early stages of human development are specifically addressed in SB28. To make it easier for you to visualize these early stages, I have a set of 1st trimester pre-natal models here for you to look at, as well as attaching a photo of these models to the testimony you have in your possession. The first trimester is the stage at which the majority of abortions occur. Development continues on through toddler, teenager, adult, and so on. During all of these developmental stages, the individual is a human being at a stage of development in life, no matter how small or how large.

It sickens me that I am here to testify about what we are to do with the remains of the unborn children that we legally allow mothers to kill. It sickens me that our laws are more concerned with what to do with their bodies after we let them be killed rather than protect them while they are alive. How ironic is it that in this bill, mothers who are about to kill their children are given the choice of whether to bury them or cremate them so that they can humanely dispose of the child whose life they are about to inhumanely end?

We have failed miserably in this country to protect innocent life, allowing over 59 million unborn children to be legally killed since 1973. The least we can do to them in death is give them the dignity that they never got in life. This bill will make that happen if it is enforced.

Throughout history, we have been horrified to learn about the inhumane disposal of human beings in mass graves, such as the huge pits to dispose of the murdered Jews during the holocaust, or the mass graves uncovered in Bosnia, Rwanda and other genocides that have taken place committed by those who have little regard for human life at any stage. What is worse about the remains of aborted

children is that many of these children have been disposed of as garbage, mixed in with our everyday waste. Women who choose to abort their children with the abortion pill most often abort their child into the toilet and flush it away to the sewers. If you visited a surgical abortion clinic, you most often will find freezers with five gallon buckets containing the co-mingled parts of the children that have been legally and inhumanely removed in pieces from their mothers. These abortion clinics are supposed to have regulations in place already that humanely dispose of the aborted children, but the investigation a few years ago by Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine uncovered that at least some Planned Parenthood locations were contracting with companies that sent these remains for disposal in landfills.

This is really a conundrum. Common sense tells us that humane disposal does not mean putting bodies in the trash. But common sense also tells us that it is inhumane to kill an unborn child. When Roe v Wade and successive decisions were handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court, it did not give a woman the constitutional right to kill her unborn child. Instead, it interpreted the law to make abortion a medical procedure hidden behind a woman's right to privacy, thereby ignoring the fact that there was another human life involved.

We've allowed the Supreme Court to effectively write the law rather than to interpret it, and we've allowed more than 59 million children across this country to lose their lives for convenience sake. The least that we can do in Ohio is lay them to rest humanely while we work at restoring common sense, civility, morals and values to stop the madness and tragedy of abortion.

I urge you to support this common sense bill and pass it out of committee for a vote by the full house. This bill is not a political agenda against abortion, as Planned Parenthood executives have stated. This law instead is to deal with the tragic aftermath of abortion created by those who have such little regard for the humane treatment of the unborn child while it is still alive.



Touch of Life

The first trimester

Pre-natal development from 7 to 10 weeks after conception

7 Weeks (9 Wks LMP)

The baby's facial features are visible, including mouth and tongue. The eyelids have begun to form. The major muscle system is developed. The child has its own blood type. One hundred thousand new brain cells are formed every minute. The heart is beating 140-150 beats per minute - almost twice as fast as mom's. The baby is about an inch long (all stretched out) and weighs only 1/4 oz.

8 Weeks (10 Wks LMP)

The unborn child now swims and moves gracefully inside the protective amnionic sac. Every organ is present. The stomach produces digestive juices and the liver makes blood cells. The kidneys are beginning to function and taste buds are forming. Brain waves can be measured. The heart beats sturdily. The baby's eyelids and palms of the hands are sensitive to touch. The baby is about 1.5 inches long now.

9 Weeks (11 Wks LMP)

The baby is now called a fetus, meaning "little one". The hands now bend at the wrist and fingerprints and fingernails are just beginning to show. Elbows are formed. Nerves begin to function. The baby's bones may begin to harden. Thumb sucking occurs. The male or female organs appear. The baby will move away if touched through the uterine wall and can move spontaneously. The baby is about 2 inches now.

10 Weeks (12 Weeks LMP)

The child is sensitive to touch, squints, swallows, frowns and puckers up the brow. The voice box is forming. The baby will stretch out and show breathing-like movements. Tiny baby teeth are forming in the gums. The heart is almost completely formed and resembles a small version of a newborn baby's heart. The baby is now about 2.5 inches in length. Now the baby's main job is just to grow bigger and stronger until the day of birth.