

Mary Beth Kopala
Proponent
Senate Bill 28
House Health Committee
February 14, 2018

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Antonio and distinguished members of the House Health Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify today on SB 28. My name is Mary Beth Kopala, and I am registered nurse, and also a member of the Bethesda Healing Ministry, a post abortive healing ministry supported by the Catholic Dioceses here in Columbus Ohio. I am here today to speak in favor of the Unborn Child Dignity Act.

As I reflect back on my healing journey that has been ongoing for a number of years since my abortions, I truly believe that if I had an opportunity to dignify my children's remains, and have them properly placed in a burial site. Such an opportunity would have been a huge benefit to my recovery process immediately post abortive. Each life is a gift and should be treated as such from conception to death, something that I mourn and grieve every day, and wish that I could change for two of my children. Unfortunately, I can't change my choices, and I have no place to go to grieve, or lay flowers on a grave, or sit and have an opportunity to just be in the presence of my own children's remains and memorials. Maybe some people believe we mothers and fathers who make such a choice do not deserve this, but I can say to you today, if I would have been given this opportunity to have the remains of my child properly cared for, and placed in a burial spot, my grieving process would have been so different as would my healing journey. Most of us grieving, and recovering from our painful past would long for a place to properly grieve and pay our respects to our innocent children. Life is so precious, and with this bill we can give these innocent children a proper place to lay their remains in a humane and just way.

I am one mom, speaking on behalf of countless mothers and fathers who would agree with my words to you today. Many of us would be so grateful to mourn and grieve our children that we wish we could have in our present day lives. As a mother, a nurse who encounters post abortive men and women in my work environment, and also in the healing group through Bethesda, I ask you to please vote in favor of Senate Bill 28 and protect the dignity of each child. Thank you.