

Pegi Deeter

Senate Bill 28, The Unborn Child Dignity Act

House Health Committee

February 14, 2018

Thank you, Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Antonio for allowing me to provide testimony today on behalf of Senate Bill 28. My name is Pegi Deeter and I serve as the Director of Operations and Abortion Recovery Services at PDHC in Columbus. I support the intent of SB 28 to humanly dispose of the fetal remains after voluntary abortion. In my personal experience as a post abortive woman, it is unsettling to receive the knowledge that fetal parts are disposed of as everyday refuse. As a young, uninformed girl at the time of my abortions, I assumed that medical professionals would treat the remains of my unborn child(ren) with dignity. I assumed that is what professionals did, perform their duties in a professional, respectful manner. My abortion providers, sadly, did not counsel me in the side effects after abortion. The news that fetal remains are simply dumped in landfills, furthers the emotional trauma of my past decisions.

In my experience as a peer consultant to hundreds of other post abortive women, I can attest to the trauma women experience of not knowing where their children have ended up; or worse, the trauma of knowing that their children have been disposed of in an inhuman manner. One young girl in particular, whose tears and words of regret "I know my baby is in a trash can somewhere" is just an example of the trauma that many woman experience after abortion.

I believe that every human life is deserving of respect and honor in death, and we know it is possible to provide this to even the smallest humans. I fully support SB 28 and the requirement to ensure that remains, even those baby remains who are lost due to voluntary abortion, must be disposed of either by cremation or burial and failure to humanely dispose of aborted remains will be considered a crime.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak in favor of SB 28. I'm happy to take any questions you may have.