

**Statement on Ohio Senate Bill 28**  
**Opponent**  
**Presented to the House Health Committee**  
**February 28, 2018**  
**Written Testimony Chrisse France, M.Ed.**

Chairman and members of the committee:

I am Chrisse France, the executive director of Preterm, a nonprofit abortion and reproductive health clinic in Cleveland, Ohio. We are a state-licensed ambulatory surgical center and we are certified by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, a national accrediting organization. We provide abortion care for approximately 5,000 women annually.

This proposed bill is unnecessary and places additional burdens on women seeking abortion care. Long before the state demonstrated any interest in regulating how women experience their abortion, Preterm has always operated with the highest medical standards and with a patient-focused care model. Since our opening in 1974 we have provided our patients with an extensive counseling and education process. This includes a thorough explanation of the abortion procedure and the option of viewing or obtaining an ultrasound picture, and the option of viewing her fetal tissue. Very few women choose to view their fetal tissue. Women also have the option of having a funeral home pick up their tissue for burial or cremation. Almost no one chooses to do that, less than 0.2% choose that option in any given year.

We need to respect each woman's ability to make the deeply personal decision to have an abortion. When a woman has made the decision to have an abortion, she should be able to access that care safely, in her community, without shame, judgment or harassment, including from politicians. Preterm and other health care providers already act in accordance with state and federal laws to ensure embryonic and fetal tissue are handled respectfully and safely, and work with each woman on a case-by-case basis to ensure all her questions are answered and her wishes are met.

But anti-abortion politicians want to force a woman who has had an abortion to have to consider and decide upon burial or cremation services—it's inappropriate and cruel. This mandate does not serve any public health benefit and, because of how it would be carried out, could cause abortion clinics in Ohio to have to close. This bill is the latest in a long list of medically unnecessary mandate from anti-abortion extremists who want to push abortion care out of reach for all women.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chrisse France