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| image001Joe Uecker **14th District** | **Committees**  Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs – Chair  Government Oversight & Reform – Vice Chair  JCARR – Vice Chair  Agriculture  Transportation, Commerce and Workforce  Public Utilities  Finance Sub Committee: General Government & Agency Review  Ohio Legislative Sportsmen’s Caucus – Co Chair  **Ohio Senate**  Senate Building  Room 226, Second Floor  Columbus, Ohio 43215  (614) 466-8082  Uecker@ohiosenate.gov |  |

**Sponsor Testimony**

**State Senator Joseph Uecker**

**Senate Bill 28**

**Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee**

**February 15, 2017**

Thank you Chairman Coley, Ranking Member Yuko, and members of the Government Oversight and Reform Committee for the opportunity to speak on behalf of Senate Bill 28.

Senate Bill 28 is similar to Senate Bill 254 which passed out of the Senate last year. It seeks to honor the unborn by ensuring procedures are in place to properly dispose of aborted fetal remains.

Last year it was brought to my attention that the Ohio Revised Code does not contain procedures regarding the disposal of aborted infant remains. In fact, most states lack such policies.

Senate Bill 28 states that an abortion facility can only dispose of aborted baby remains through the use of cremation or interment and grants that mother the right to determine the final disposition of the remains. Her decision must be documented in her medical records and the facility is responsible for the cost of the disposal. Any violation of this statute is a first degree misdemeanor.

The bill also requires the Director of Health to adopt rules necessary to carry out the bill’s provision including final disposition forms and parental consent forms.

Records regarding the patient are not public. However, the Department of Heath will maintain the records of the disposal option and, if applicable, parental consent to the determination.

Please join me in protecting the dignity of human life. Thank you for your consideration. I am happy to answer any questions.