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Written Proponent Testimony
S.B. 28, Ohio Unborn Child Dignity Act
December 12, 2017

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee:

Right to Life of Greater Cincinnati is the largest Right to Life chapter in the state. The state-level Ohio Right to Life organization was founded in Cincinnati in 1967, and later moved to Columbus.

This testimony is submitted on behalf of Right to Life Action Coalition of Ohio, which thus far includes Cincinnati Right to Life and 15 additional life-affirming member organizations across the state, in support of S.B. 28, Ohio's Unborn Child Dignity Act.

S.B. 28, Ohio's Unborn Child Dignity Act requires burial or cremation of each individual surgically aborted child, and gives a mother the choice of method of final disposition. It ensures that a paper trail follows an aborted child's fetal remains from the abortionist, to funeral home or crematory, to the Ohio Department of Health.

This bill was prompted after Attorney General Mike DeWine's investigation into whether state abortion facilities are properly disposing of aborted babies' remains, due to evidence of improper procedures found in other states. His investigation uncovered that abortionists are ignoring Ohio code requiring humane disposal of these babies' bodies and callously dumping in landfills.

At the very least, little aborted children deserve some measure of respect and dignity in final disposition— the same as for any other deceased human being. S.B. 28 ensures that these babies' bodies are not mistreated as "medical waste," nor harvested and sold for research.

Current Ohio law simply requires humane disposition of fetal remains, and is vague and open to interpretation. Ohio's Unborn Child Dignity Act provides specific guidelines to clearly ensure proper treatment.

May 2016, the full Ohio Senate voted 23-10 to pass Sub. S.B. 254 to ensure respectful disposition of aborted fetal remains, but the bill went no further. Please vote for this year's version of the same bill—S.B. 28, Ohio's Unborn Child Dignity Act—to move the bill into law.

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