Thank you Mr. Chairman, my name is Nathan Berning and I am the Executive Director of the pro-life organization, Let Them Live. As a secular organization, we focus on educating people on the biology of the unborn. This has led to many difficult conversations, particularly with women who have had abortions or are scheduled to have abortions.

While our group was doing activism and educating people on the stages of fetal development, a woman who had recently had an abortion approached us. I showed her what a fetus looks like at 16 weeks and she shook her head no. She told me that it was incorrect, because she had an abortion at 16 weeks and it looked like a “clump of cells” after the abortion. I told her it looked that way because the fetus had been ripped apart before it was removed from her womb, and that it looked like a small baby before the abortion. She covered her mouth, obviously shaken by this discovery. Then she took a handful of our flyers and began distributing them to people walking by. This was perhaps the most impactful moment I have had while doing pro-life activism…

…It made me realize that if more people knew the truth about fetal development, they would be against abortion. This includes knowing that fetuses have a heartbeat at just 6 weeks of gestation. With that said, I urge you to research fetal development and tell me that a fetus with a heartbeat at 6 weeks is not a human being worthy of protection. If you believe that it is, you must vote Yes.

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Thank you Mr. Chairman, I’m Emily Berning and I’m the President of Let Them Live.

First let me describe to you why our organization is in favor of HB 258 and the protection it extends to the most vulnerable people in society - those who haven’t been born yet.

The reality is that once a preborn fetus has a heartbeat, they have a 98-99% chance of survival if left to develop naturally. But when you count their chance of being aborted, their likelihood of survival drops to around 86% here in Ohio. Only in the womb are the chances of survival so low, making it among the most dangerous places in the World for a human being to live.

Shouldn’t the womb be a safe space where fetuses can develop as nature has dictated? And shouldn’t the right to Life be protected by our government?

The eradication of human fetuses is among the greatest atrocities in human history, the ultimate form of discrimination, and a blatant violation of the constitutional right to life. Future generations will look back on this moment in history in one of two ways - as the moment that Ohio chose to stand up for and protect human life, helping to pave the way forward for the rest of the country, or chose to continue allowing the intentional killing of our most vulnerable citizens. Your Yes vote will make all the difference in the ongoing fight to restore the right to life to all human beings. Senators, I urge you to Let Them Live.