

Rabbi Jon Adland
Temple Israel
HB 258 – Six-Week Abortion Ban
Opponent Testimony
Ohio Senate Health, Human Services, and Medicaid Committee
December 5, 2018

Chairman Burke, Vice Chair Beagle, Ranking Member Tavares, and members of the Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee.

There are any number of issues that concern me about this proposed bill. It violates the Supreme Court decision in Roe v. Wade. It is invasive into the personal life of a woman and in her relationship with her doctor. It determines that human life begins with the beat of the heart. It is the last which causes me concern as a rabbi and a Jew.

Judaism believes that human life begins at the moment of birth. Human life is separated from life by ensoulment which occurs, according to Jewish authorities, at the moment of birth when the fetus transforms into human being with his/her first breath. By stating that a heartbeat determines human life violates Jewish law from all authorities.

Judaism believes that human life is sacred, but we also believe that a fetus is only a potential life and thus, without rights. To legislate differently violates Jewish law. Where this opinion may differ in other religions, we shouldn't legislate in favor of one religion over another.

Finally, the relationship between a woman and her doctor is one that shouldn't be infringed upon by legislation. To begin to enter into this relationship will undermine everything we believe about this sacred relationship. Doctors shouldn't be scared about doing what is best for their patient and women should be afraid of coming to a doctor for help.

Please vote this bill down.

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Jon Adland