

**Bridget Watson**  
**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,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Bridget Watson. I am a medical student in Ohio. I am strongly opposed to HB 258.

As a medical student, I see many patients who are female and of reproductive age, and could therefore be affected by this bill. This legislation aims to ban abortion after 6 weeks, which is such an early point in the pregnancy many women are not aware they are even pregnant yet. Protection of a woman's right to abortion access has long been protected by the Roe v. Wade and this bill directly conflicts the long-set precedent. In contrast to what many people believe, abortion procedures are medically very safe, with only a 0.05% complication rate. This bill would take away the woman's right to make her own medical decision before she would even know she had a medical decision to make.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote *NO* on this *harmful* bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.