

I am submitting written testimony in opposition to HB 258, the 6-week abortion ban, and I humbly ask you to vote “no” on this measure. I am opposed to this bill because it will add undue burden to women seeking abortion care. I do not support this bill because many women do not discover they are pregnant until the sixth week or later which, if this bill becomes law, would be too late to obtain a safe and legal abortion. Three years ago, I chose to terminate a pregnancy. I did not discover I was pregnant until I was eight weeks along. My husband and I were using birth control and it wasn't until eight weeks along that I showed any signs of being pregnant. When we learned that I was pregnant, we immediately chose to obtain an abortion. We were not in a financial position to have a child, which was why we were using birth control. If this bill had been law at the time, I would not have been able to obtain a legal abortion in Ohio when I learned that I was pregnant. Instead, I would have had to bear the financial burden of traveling outside of the state to obtain an abortion.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with testimony. Once again, I ask you to vote in opposition to HB 258.

Sincerely,

Nikole Patson

Columbus, Ohio