



**Denise Leipold  
Executive Director**

**Testimony in Support of SB27  
House Civil Justice Committee  
April 30, 2019**

Chairman Hambley, Vice Chair Patton, Ranking Minority Member Brown & committee members:

Thank you for allowing me to testify before you today. I am here to support SB27 regarding the disposal of fetal remains after a surgical abortion.

The question of when human life begins is not in dispute. It is accepted scientific fact that a new human life begins at the moment of conception. What has been dispute for the past 46 years is whether anyone should have the right to terminate that new human life while it is still in its mother's womb, before it even has a chance to take a breath. You will often hear abortion advocates say that this new life is not a baby, that it is only a blob of tissue. They are correct to say that it is not a baby. The word "baby" is a developmental term. The new human life goes through several stages before it reaches the developmental term of "baby" at birth. This bill correctly refers to the different developmental terms —such as zygote, blastocyte, embryo and fetus — that a developing human being is called before it exits the womb. However, the word "baby" is also commonly used by many outside of the medical and scientific community to describe the developing child in the womb at all stages of development. For the purposes of this bill, the correct medical terms for the different stages of development are specifically addressed in the bill's language. To make it easier for you to visualize these early stages, I have a set of 1<sup>st</sup> trimester pre-natal models here for you to look at, as well as

attaching a photo of these models to the testimony you have in your possession. The first trimester is the stage at which the majority of abortions occur. Development continues on through toddler, teenager, adult, and so on. During all of these developmental stages, the individual is a human being at a stage of development in life, no matter how small or how large.

It sickens me that I am here to testify about what we are to do with the remains of the unborn children that we legally allow mothers to kill, and that our laws are more concerned with what to do with their bodies after we let them be killed rather than protect them while they are alive. How ironic is it that in this bill, mothers who are about to kill their children are given the choice of whether to bury them or cremate them so that they can humanely dispose of the child whose life they are about to inhumanely end?

I would like to specifically address some statements that have been made by opponents to this bill that came up in previous testimony before the senate, and that will probably be brought up again before this committee. The first statement was made by the Jaime Miracle, the deputy director of NARAL Pro Choice Ohio. She said in testimony that women need choices, however, she did not like the fact that with the passage of this bill, the mother of the aborted dead child must make another choice—whether to cremate or bury the dead child. I believe it is heartbreaking that a mother would ever have to make that kind of choice if her child were to die, but in an abortion, she **CHOOSES TO** kill her child, and it should be her responsibility to choose how to humanely dispose of that child's body. Ms. Miracle also stated that the bill's **ACTUAL** purpose is to block patients from getting abortion "care". Let me make it perfectly clear that while I and many others who know that it is morally and ethically wrong to purposefully kill a human being at any stage of life and would like nothing better than to stop all abortions, this bill has nothing to do with stopping abortions. It instead deals with the tragic aftermath of the children who are killed by abortion. It is those that choose to end the life of their child that have

created the dilemma of the disposition of the remains. It is certainly not the choice of those who would protect life because then this problem would not exist.

Testimony was also given by Gary Daniels, a lobbyist for the Ohio ACLU. He stated in his testimony that this bill will drive up the cost of abortions because the abortion providers must now pay for the cost of internment or cremation. These very same providers say that they are already doing this, so if they are NOT following humane disposal practices and paying for these costs, then they obviously are not following the law. I do NOT see how it could be a problem that should these costs need to rise that they be passed on to the mother, either. We hear all the time from abortion supporters that abortion is a difficult decision and not made lightly, but since more than 60 million human beings have been killed through abortion by their mothers in only 46 years, it doesn't bear this out. You can't have it both ways. If you are responsible enough to make a "difficult" decision to kill your preborn child, then you should be responsible enough to deal with the after effects of this decision. Mr. Daniels went on to say in his testimony that those of us in favor of this bill are "frustrated anti-choicers." I WILL agree that we are frustrated and cannot understand how it could be legal to kill an innocent child in the womb. We are frustrated when the media criminalizes people who abuse or kill animals but call it "health care" to kill a preborn child. But we are most certainly not anti-choice! We don't think the child in the womb would CHOOSE to have its life ended. This is NOT a bill to shame women, as Mr. Daniels further states in his testimony. This bill instead makes women accept the responsibility for what happens after they decide to kill their child.

The last testimony I want to refer to was made by Chrise France, the executive director of Preterm abortion center in Shaker Heights. She stated that the bill will harm women and families if passed. Can you even see the irony in this? Abortion kills a human being. It physically, emotionally and psychologically harms women, and destroys a family unit. This bill harms no one. It instead deals with

the after effects that should be considered before anyone even has a thought about killing an innocent human life.

Throughout history, we have been horrified to learn about the inhumane disposal of human beings in mass graves, such as the huge pits to dispose of the murdered Jews during the holocaust, or the mass graves uncovered in Bosnia, Rwanda and other genocides that have taken place committed by those who have little regard for human life at any stage. What is worse about the remains of aborted children is that many of these children have been disposed of as garbage, mixed in with our everyday waste. Women who choose to abort their children with the abortion pill most often abort their child into the toilet and flush it away to the sewers. These abortion clinics are supposed to have regulations in place already that humanely dispose of the aborted children, but the investigation a few years ago by then Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine uncovered that at least some Planned Parenthood locations were contracting with companies that sent these remains for disposal in landfills.

This is really a conundrum. Common sense tells us that humane disposal does not mean putting bodies in the trash. But common sense also tells us that it is inhumane to kill an unborn child. When Roe v Wade and successive decisions were handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court, it did not give a woman the constitutional right to kill her unborn child. Instead, it interpreted the law to make abortion a medical procedure hidden behind a woman's right to privacy, thereby ignoring the fact that there was another human life involved.

We have failed miserably in this country to protect innocent life, allowing over 60 million unborn children to be legally killed since 1973. The least we can do to them in death is give them the dignity that they never got in life. This bill will make that happen if it is enforced. It should be our duty to lay these innocent victims to rest humanely while we work at restoring common sense, civility, morals and values to stop the madness and tragedy of abortion. I urge you to support this common sense bill and

pass it out of committee for a vote by the full senate. This bill is not a political agenda against abortion, as abortion providers have stated. This law instead is to deal with the tragic aftermath of abortion created by those who have such little regard for the humane treatment of the unborn child while it is still alive.



## Touch of Life

## *The first trimester*

Pre-natal development from 7 to 10 weeks after conception

### **7 Weeks (9 Wks LMP)**

The baby's facial features are visible, including mouth and tongue. The eyelids have begun to form. The major muscle system is developed. The child has its own blood type. One hundred thousand new brain cells are formed every minute. The heart is beating 140-150 beats per minute - almost twice as fast as mom's. The baby is about an inch long (all stretched out) and weighs only 1/4 oz.

### **8 Weeks (10 Wks LMP)**

The unborn child now swims and moves gracefully inside the protective amnionic sac. Every organ is present. The stomach produces digestive juices and the liver makes blood cells. The kidneys are beginning to function and taste buds are forming. Brain waves can be measured. The heart beats sturdily. The baby's eyelids and palms of the hands are sensitive to touch. The baby is about 1.5 inches long now.

### **9 Weeks (11 Wks LMP)**

The baby is now called a fetus, meaning "little one". The hands now bend at the wrist and fingerprints and fingernails are just beginning to show. Elbows are formed. Nerves begin to function. The baby's bones may begin to harden. Thumb sucking occurs. The male or female organs appear. The baby will move away if touched through the uterine wall and can move spontaneously. The baby is about 2 inches now.

### **10 Weeks (12 Weeks LMP)**

The child is sensitive to touch, squints, swallows, frowns and puckers up the brow. The voice box is forming. The baby will stretch out and show breathing-like movements. Tiny baby teeth are forming in the gums. The heart is almost completely formed and resembles a small version of a newborn baby's heart. The baby is now about 2.5 inches in length. Now the baby's main job is just to grow bigger and stronger until the day of birth.