

Members of the Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Sarah Dobney. I am public health professional, a teacher, a medical writer, a mom to a beautiful 3-year-old daughter, and someone who has had an abortion. And I am strongly opposed to Senate Bill 27.

Along with the many things mentioned above, I am also a mother who has experienced the loss of a child. My daughter is a twin and at the 20-week ultrasound of my first pregnancy, my husband and I found out that our son had anencephaly and would not survive past birth. Given the circumstances (including the timing of this discovery), our only option was to proceed with the pregnancy and hope to see our son born alive and spend as much time with him as we could. He lived for 90 minutes. A day that was the happiest we had experienced was also the saddest. Following release from the hospital, we had the monumental task of grieving our loss and traversing the path as new parents. The paperwork that we had to fill out and the preparation we made for a small ceremony in remembrance of our son's short life is something that I don't wish on any parent. With the help of the hospital, we were able to transfer our son's body to Nationwide Children's Hospital where tissue samples and pictures were taken (and an autopsy was performed) for scientific purpose. He was then transferred to the funeral home of our choice and cremated in accordance with our wishes.

Fast forward 4 months and we were happily pregnant again with our rainbow baby. Following numerous ultrasounds, we found out that our second son had multiple issues that gave him very little chance of surviving past birth. We were fortunate enough this pregnancy to be able to make our own decision as a family as to whether or not to proceed with the pregnancy. Following consultation with many doctors (including those at Nationwide Children's Hospital), we decided to access abortion services through Planned Parenthood. This decision was not easy but I am grateful that we had the option and am thankful every day for Planned Parenthood.

I am also appreciative that I did not have to make additional decisions regarding fetal remains at the time of my procedure.

Not only am I glad that I didn't have to make these decisions for a second time, but that my abortion provider and other entities such as a crematorium weren't burdened with the tasks of filling out additional paper work and completing tasks that were unnecessary given the decision that I was making to terminate a pregnancy. These additional "hoops" cost money and make everyone's access to a vital health procedure even more difficult.

In closing, I ask the question of what these new mandates serve to do, other than to make a very personal decision more difficult for providers and patients.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this harmful bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify. I will now take any questions you may have.