



House Health Committee  
Rep. Derek Merrin, Chairman

### WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Date: March 19, 2019

Name: Barry Sheets

Are you representing: Yourself \_\_\_\_\_ Organization

Organization (If Applicable) Right to Life Action Coalition of Ohio

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Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

#### Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB 90

Specific Issue: Humanity of the Unborn Education Act

Are you testifying as a: Proponent  Opponent \_\_\_\_\_ Interested Party \_\_\_\_\_

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? 3 minutes

Comments:

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.

House Bill 90  
Humanity of the Unborn Education Act  
Proponent Testimony before the House Health Committee  
Barry Sheets, Legislative Consultant, Right to Life Action Coalition of Ohio  
March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Chairman Merrin, Vice Chairman Manning, Ranking Member Boyd and members of the House Health Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to offer support for Rep. Antani's House Bill 90, the Humanity of the Unborn Education Act.

As Ohio has become very focused on reducing the rates of infant mortality, it is timely that this legislation is before you. Helping young people to study and understand the basics of human development from the beginning stages is an important method to prepare young people more fully for the responsibilities of parenthood at a future point in their lives, for emphasizing the need for prenatal care during pregnancy, and for pointing them to resources that can help as the child grows, both in the pre-born stages and during dependency after birth.

It may be helpful to discuss what the bill does and does not do:

1. The Ohio State Board of Education (SBE) working with Ohio Department of Health (ODH) is directed to develop instructional programming to teach human development from the point of conception and during each 2-week period through birth.
2. Public school boards of Education and chartered nonpublic schools may choose to implement the instructional program. Note: this is not a mandate, it is permissive.
3. Should public schools choose to do so, the program must meet the minimum following criteria:
  - a. Provide accurate, scientifically verifiable information regarding anatomical and physiological characteristics at 2-week gestational intervals.
  - b. Include information on accessing prenatal health care.
  - c. Any component of the programming regarding human sexuality education must comply with existing law (ORC 3313.6011).
4. Prohibits any program or any employee of a school from referring a student to a medical facility or any provider for the performance of an abortion.
5. Requires the Ohio Department of Health to develop and maintain a pregnancy and child services database containing list of agencies that offer services available to assist women through pregnancy and childbirth, and while their children are dependent. This database shall include public and private agencies, and adoption agencies.
6. Requires, within six months of effective date, that facilities (defined in the bill as a building that has a public restroom and is an educational setting, a health care facility, or a retail food establishment (restaurant)) may download and then shall post in their public restrooms the following information from the Ohio Department of Health: "There are many public and private agencies willing and able to help you carry your child to term and assist you and your child after your child is born, whether you choose to keep your child or place your child for adoption. If you are pregnant, the State of Ohio strongly urges you to contact an agency listed on the Department of Health's pregnancy and child services database. (and includes link)"

7. Requires the Department of Health to develop materials that meet the guidelines for the Humanity of the Unborn Child education component (#3 above). Any materials must clearly and consistently state that abortion kills a living human being.

8. ODH shall provide outreach, training, consultation and alternatives-to-abortion referral services to organizations, communities and educational settings.

9. ODH shall distribute materials addressing maternal behavior during pregnancy that is helpful to an unborn child, including:

- a. avoidance of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs during pregnancy
- b. importance of proper nutrition and prenatal vitamins
- c. resources available for prenatal medical and wellness care.

10. The bill provides an appropriation of \$500,000 per year of the biennium for the development of the programming, creation and maintenance of the ODH database, and public material distribution channels for information to be shared with the public.

We believe this is a reasonable way in which to help provide needed information to the public to assist in achieving the goal of reduced infant mortality, reduced unplanned pregnancies, and supporting new and emerging families to give their children better opportunity for long-term health and success.

Thank you for your kind attention to this legislation. The Right to Life Action Coalition hopes you will adopt this measure. I would be happy to take questions.