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Senate Bill 23 – Six-Week Abortion Ban
Opponent Testimony
Ohio House Health Committee
March 26, 2019

Thank you for allowing me to testify through my written statement against Senate Bill 23, the six-week abortion ban.

The Ohio Senate just passed what is called the Six-Week Abortion Ban, or known as the Heart Beat Bill, Senate Bill 23. I have wondered why this continued battle over anti-abortion vs. allowing people to choose for themselves what do. I have heard some legislators say, "I am pro-life." Does this mean that the legislator is doing this because of personal beliefs? Personal anti-abortion beliefs and biblical followings have no place in legislation. I can respect someone for being anti-abortion for them, but to mandate it for others is wrong. Many people do not believe that a fetus is a human because of its lack of viability outside the womb during the early stages of pregnancy. Nearly three-quarters of Americans do not want to see Roe v. Wade overturned.

Legislators need to leave their own personal beliefs outside of the realm of legislation. Let us consider the example of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, who put aside his personal beliefs in flag burning when he said, "If I were king, I would not allow people to go around burning the American flag," Scalia told CNN in 2012. "However, we have a First Amendment, which says that the right of free speech shall not be abridged. Scalia said the constitution takes precedent over his own personal beliefs. It should hold true for abortion issues also. Follow the constitution and respect that the Supreme Court already confirms Roe v. Wade as the law of the land.

I urge you to vote no on Senate Bill 23, the dangerous six-week abortion ban.