

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

Chairman Merrin, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Boyd, and Members of the Ohio House Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Lynn Bragg. I am a 68 year old Retired Medical Sales/Technical Specialist. Originally from Columbus, I have lived in Sandusky/Huron Ohio for the last 28 years. I am here to offer testimony in support of Planned Parenthood and their mission to provide reproductive healthcare information & services including the safe/LEGAL access to abortion. **I am STRONGLY opposed to Senate Bill 23.**

I'm here because I am opposed to all prohibitions/obstacles that continue to erode options and opportunities for women to access the economic parity. I'm tired of the shaming of women for wanting to plan their families. I'm tired of the idea (much less the reality) of the State Legislature in the exam room with women and their doctor – speaking to grown women to consider their decisions will be second guessed by the state, re-educated on the human life cycle, then subject to extraordinary documentation should she want to proceed with the currently LEGAL access to abortion. IF HER TIMING IS RIGHT. It's insulting and I can think of NO other situation in which men must surrender to this type of violation.

“The definition of “Dystopia” in literature, a dystopia is a futuristic, imagined universe in which oppressive societal control and the illusion of a perfect society are maintained through corporate , bureaucratic, technological, moral, or totalitarian control. Dystopias, through an exaggerated worst-case scenario, (“protected pregnancy” italics/example mine) make a criticism about a current trend, societal norm, or political system.” Wikipedia

“One study concluded that “women who receive a wanted abortion are better able to aspire for the future than women who are denied a wanted abortion and must carry an unwanted pregnancy to term.” Labor Research (2004) Ushma D. Upadhyay et al. *The Effect of Abortion on Having and Achieving Aspirational One-Year Plans*, 15 BMC Women's Health 102, (2015)

....”when given access to abortion, women's health outcomes and economic security improve. Women living in states with policies that support women's access to health care have a higher earnings and are more integrated into the workforce than women in other states.” Kate Bahn et al., Ctr. For Am. Progress, *Linking Reproductive Health Care Access to Labor Market Opportunities for Women* (2017)

I'm a textbook example of all the studies citing outcomes of teen pregnancy, high school kick out at sixteen (I didn't drop out, I was kicked out – back when if you got pregnant your life was ruined forever – they told me), and multiple marriagesI couldn't earn enough to provide for my daughters and I refused to subject them to the poverty I experienced after my first divorce. I completed the paperwork and filed for my second divorce in 1973. With the cooperation of my 2nd husband we took advantage of the new “No Fault” divorce law and we entered into shared custody. He was well into his career and the girls were spared the uprooting to a ghetto. In 1975 I worked two jobs and was a Freshman at The Ohio State University. One day I realized that I was likely pregnant!! Impossible – I'm on birth control pills (I learned later, by today's dosing standard they were 200X's higher dose with its risks and side effects).

I couldn't have another baby, I couldn't work & go to school with the associated physical constraints and I had to keep going to school or I'd never be anything but a statistic! I had an abortion and never looked back. It took me 7 years to get my degree in Psychology, but I got it. In 1975 my annual income

was less than \$5000. After graduation (1982) my income was about \$9000. By 2005 I was making six figures which continued until my retirement.

My daughters are grown, one an elementary school teacher, the other a former US Navy Lieutenant – now an IT Systems Executive. They've been married to the same person for over 25 years and they each raised 2 boys. I remain in a loving relationship with my partner for almost 32 years.

I believe myself to be an example of the successful outcome of total and unrestrained access to safe, legal abortion.

Stop the obstruction. Stop the shaming of women who find themselves in need of the option of abortion for their reproductive healthcare. This offers no protection to the victims of rape or incest! You're sentencing them to another horrific experience in which THEY ARE THE VICTIM AGAIN. Stop the potential for impoverishment during “protected pregnancy”. Stop calling her pregnancy – “the unborn human individual”! So stop calling this the State's protection of women's health. It's insulting. We can make these decisions ourselves and live a full and productive life. We've got this!

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this invasive legislation.
Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

I will now take any questions you may have.