



To: Members of the Ohio House Health Committee

Fr: Monica Hueckel, Senior Director, Ohio State Medical Association
Joe Rosato, Director, Ohio State Medical Association

Da: April 2, 2019

Re: SB 23

We are writing to express to members of the House Health Committee our serious concerns regarding Senate Bill 23, which would generally prohibit an abortion after a fetal heartbeat can be detected. It is the policy of the Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA) to neither promote nor oppose legislative proposals related to the legality of abortion procedures. However, separate OSMA policy dictates that our organization opposes legislation that criminalizes or otherwise penalizes any medical procedure that is considered a standard of care.

The OSMA is extremely concerned due to specific provisions of the legislation that allow for civil and criminal penalties for clinicians who provide medical care related to women's reproductive health issues. While the scope of medical practice is and should be under legislative control, determining the appropriateness for performing standard medical procedures has traditionally been – and should continue to be – left to the expertise of medical professionals.

On behalf of nearly 16,000 physician, resident, and medical student members of the OSMA, we appreciate your attention to this letter and the opportunity to comment on this legislation. Should you care to discuss these matters further, please feel free to contact Monica Hueckel, the OSMA's Senior Director of Government Relations at 614-527-6762 or mhueckel@osma.org.