



Ohio Section

David Hackney, MD FACOG Vice,
Legislative Chair
Ohio Section

**Ohio House
Health Committee
SB260 Abortion Inducing Drugs
Testimony of David Hackney, MD FACOG
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Ohio Section**

Chair Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Boyd, and members of the House Health Committee, my name is Dr. David Hackney and I am a practicing physician specialist in Maternal Fetal Medicine in Cleveland Ohio. I am testifying on behalf of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Ohio Section (ACOG Ohio) and am not representing the views of my employers. I received my medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh and completed my residency training at THE Ohio State University. I've been in active practice in Cleveland for eight years where I am currently a Division Director and Associate Professor.

As Vice/Legislative Chair of ACOG Ohio, I write today to express our opposition to amendment AM_133_3895 which may be offered to SB260.

Please consider the following implications we believe will happen as a result of this amendment becoming law:

- **Ohio's OB/GYN residency training programs will close:** The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) requires programs to provide training or access to training in the provision of abortions. Residents must have experience in managing complications of abortions and in all forms of contraception, including reversible methods and sterilization. Without this training component, Ohio's physician residency programs would close. With the current shortage of OB/GYNs, closing an entire state's residency programs would make the situation worse, not to mention the impact on women's health care and pregnancy health needs.
- Given that the residency programs in Ohio would close, Ohio's infant and maternal mortality rates would also be negatively impacted. Ohio is already the 48th worst state for infant mortality and this would make it decline further.
- The amendment extends the time period for a civil action to be brought from one year to four years and removes the physician's affirmative defense thus shifting the burden of proof from the patient to the physician. OB/GYN Physicians liability currently is one of the highest in the medical field; extending the time for a cause of action to be brought by 75% and shifting the burden of proof will only intensify the liability environment and potentially further contribute to higher malpractice premiums for OB/GYN Physicians.

- The amendment would also add overly prescriptive directives on performing an ultrasound procedure which currently are determined by the scientific training and expertise of the physician and the specific facts presented in the patient. This would further limit a physician's ability to accurately assess the patient's medical needs.

Having received this amendment last evening, the concerns outlined above are initial reactions and we do not feel we have had adequate time to digest the full implications it may have. For these reasons, ACOG Ohio opposes the amendment AM_133_3895 to SB 260 and urge you to closely examine all the available scientific and medical evidence which clearly shows this amendment is harmful to women's health care in Ohio. We appreciate your consideration and urge you to vote no on this amendment and hope you will consider ACOG Ohio and its members a valuable resource for all items relating to the practice of obstetrics and gynecology and women's health issues.

ACOG is our specialty's premier professional membership organization dedicated to the improvement of women's health. In Ohio, ACOG represents over 1500 obstetrician-gynecologists and their patients; and nationally ACOG represents approximately 58,000 obstetrician-gynecologists and women's health care professionals.