

February 18, 2018

To: Chairman Dave Burke
Vice Chairman Steve Huffman
Ranking Member Nickie Antonio
Members of the Senate Health, Human Services & Medicaid Committee

From: Dr. Alan Murnane
Medical Director, Pregnancy Decisions Health Center
Managing Partner, Westar OB/GYN

Re: Support of SB 23, the Heartbeat Bill

I am Alan Murnane. I am a physician and have practiced obstetrics and gynecology in Ohio since 1991. Since 2003 I have served as Medical Director for Pregnancy Decisions Health Center, a Franklin County abortion alternative service organization. I am a Diplomate of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, a Fellow of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, a member of the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and an Attending Physician in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Mount Carmel St. Ann's Hospital, where I am actively involved in the training of medical students and resident physicians.

I write to support SB 23, to extend the protection of the right to life, the most fundamental of our human rights, to all unborn humans in the State of Ohio from the time when that human being has a detectable heartbeat.

A unique human being exists from the moment of conception, equipped with the potential to grow and develop into a term infant, if provided the proper environment. Just as a term infant cannot feed and protect himself or herself, and would not survive if not cared for in an appropriate manner, just so a human embryo requires nurturing within the special environment of his or her's mother's womb in order to grow and develop.

On a daily basis we OB/GYN physicians employ sonography in early pregnancy to detect whether or not a heartbeat is detected, to let the mother and father know whether their new baby is alive. When a woman has bleeding in early pregnancy (a "threatened abortion" in medical terminology) her relief is visible when the beating heart is visualized on the sonograph screen. The parents are happy to see the heartbeat displayed as a sign of life; it can be detected as early as the third to fourth week after conception.

All Ohioans are endowed by their Creator with human dignity and the right to life. We must recognize that this right extends to all, even those who are small and only able to live within their mother's protective and nurturing womb.

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