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| image001Joe Uecker **14th District** | **Committees**  Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs – Chair  JCARR – Vice Chair  Transportation, Commerce and Workforce - Vice Chair  Government Oversight & Reform  Agriculture & Natural Resources  Finance - General Government & Agency Review Subcommittee  Ohio Legislative Sportsmen’s Caucus – Co Chair  **Ohio Senate**  Senate Building  Room 226, Second Floor  Columbus, Ohio 43215  (614) 466-8082  Uecker@ohiosenate.gov |  |

**State Senator Joseph Uecker**

**Senate Bill 27**

**Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee**

**February 26, 2019**

Thank you Chairman Burke, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee for the opportunity to speak on behalf of Senate Bill 27.

Senate Bill 27 has been before members of this chamber twice. It seeks to honor the unborn by ensuring procedures are in place to properly dispose of aborted fetal remains.

In 2015 it was brought to our attention that the Ohio Revised Code does not contain procedures regarding the disposal of aborted infant remains. In fact, most states lack such policies.

Senate Bill 27 states that an abortion facility can only dispose of aborted baby remains through the use of cremation or interment and grants that mother the right to determine the final disposition of the remains. Her decision must be documented in her medical records and the facility is responsible for the cost of the disposal. Any violation of this statute is a first degree misdemeanor.

The bill also requires the Director of Health to adopt rules necessary to carry out the bill’s provision including final disposition forms and parental consent forms.

Records regarding the patient are not public. However, the Department of Heath will maintain the records of the disposal option and, if applicable, parental consent to the determination.

Please join me in protecting the dignity of human life. Thank you for your consideration. I am happy to answer any questions.