

**Dr. Pelumi Adedayo**  
**Opponent Testimony**  
**Senate Bill 23**  
**Ohio Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee**  
**Wednesday, February 26, 2019**

Chairman Burke, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio and Members of the Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Dr. Pelumi Adedayo. I am an obstetrician and gynecologist in Cincinnati, Ohio. I am strongly opposed to Senate Bill 23. As a women's health care provider, I can tell you that most women do not find out they are pregnant until after the 6<sup>th</sup> week of gestation. This bill thus infringes on a woman's constitutional right to a safe and legal abortion before viability.

A similar law was passed in North Dakota but struck down by higher courts as the US Supreme Court prohibits any state from burdening women seeking abortions before the point of viability. If this bill is passed and challenged, it will cost Ohio taxpayers thousands of dollars in litigation. As a state, we can spend that money on much needed healthcare research and services.

Banning abortions does not stop abortions from occurring; they simply hinder safe abortions. Historically, abortion limitation increases the risk of self-induction, which only puts women in danger and actually increases the cost of healthcare.

This bill also proposes to prosecute physicians who provide abortion services for their patient after a heartbeat is found. This is a direct assault on the physician-patient relationship. This bill also contrasts the stance of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (the governing body of OBGYNs in the United States) that physicians providing information/access to abortion care is the standard of care. Not only will the bill trample on a sacred relationship between women and their doctors, it will open physicians to litigation if their care is viewed as subpar.

Thus, I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this harmful bill to both physicians and patients. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Pelumi Adedayo