

Peter Hopmann
Senate Bill 23 – Six-Week Abortion Ban
Opponent Testimony
Ohio Senate Health, Human Services, and Medicaid Committee
February 26, 2019

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Peter Hopmann. I am a fourth-year medical student from Northeast Ohio Medical University. I am strongly opposed to SB 23.

In my experience throughout medical school, we are taught very strongly to support patient autonomy when it comes to healthcare decision-making. This means that regardless of what we as the providers may think is the optimal choice, the patient ultimately deserves the right to choose the care that they want and that best fits their goals and values. It is primarily for this reason that I am so strongly against HB 258, as any and all legislation that would stand to ban abortion is in strict violation of the principle of patient autonomy. It is not the duty of a governing body to control what an individual is allowed to do to her body, just as it is not the physician's job to make that final decision for the patient. There are no other medical issues in which the patient must go to a politician to seek advice or decision-making about their medical care. Abortion should not be the exception to this rule. The bottom line is that a woman, not politicians should make the informed decisions when it comes to her own pregnancy.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this harmful and dangerous bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Peter Hopmann