

**Meghan St John**  
**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 Meghan St John. I am a medical student in Ohio. I look forward to being a practicing OB/GYN physician specializing in Family Planning, and I am strongly opposed to SB 23.

As a current medical student and future healthcare professional, I believe it is irresponsible to let politicians make medical decisions for patients. The reasons women choose to have abortions are complex, including (but not limited to) being too young to be a parent, not being able to financially support a child, and not wanting any more children. While 90% women who are not seeking pregnancy use contraception, up to half of pregnancies in the United States are unintended. This bill will attempt to ban abortion at six weeks, a time when most women don't even know they're pregnant. Furthermore, abortion is one of the safest medical procedures. The risk of complication from a first trimester abortion is only 0.05%, and according to studies published in the Obstetrics & Gynecology journal it is approximately fourteen times safer than childbirth.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this harmful bill.

Thank you for your time,  
Meghan St John