Good morning everyone and I want to thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion and concern about a topic that I believe is an inherent human right. That is, that women have the moral right to decide what to do with our bodies.

My name is Gabriella Sodini, I’m currently an undergraduate student at Case Western Reserve University studying economics and sociology. As I finish up the last semester of my undergraduate career at Case my close friends and I discuss the future. We talk about starting our careers, continuing our education, travelling the world. Our futures are bright and filled with endless possibility.

And all of this is possible through our right to bodily autonomy.

These past four years I’ve been able to chase my dreams, find my passions, and grow into the woman I am. As a young girl, both my parents told me and my brothers that we could grow up to become whatever we wanted. The options were endless: a doctor, lawyer, astronaut, engineer, CEO, or even the President of the United States. The sky was the limit.

Women make up 51% of the U.S. population and 51% of the population in Ohio. And if you decide to pass this legislation you are putting a limit on the full potential of 51% of Ohio. Passing this bill inhibits the dreams and passions of women and girls across the state. Think of all the young girls who dream of bigger things, who want to become the doctors and politicians of tomorrow. Think about where you would be if this legislation had been as place when you were young? Do you think you would be sitting in these seats today?

Sarah Weddington, the attorney who argued the landmark Roe v. Wade case before the Supreme Court of the United States said: *A pregnancy to a woman is perhaps one of the most determinative aspects of her life. It disrupts her employment. And often disrupts her entire family life. And we feel that, because of the impact on the woman, this… is a matter which is of such fundamental and basic concern to the woman involved that she should be allowed to make the choice as to whether to continue or to terminate her pregnancy.*

There are countless studies and evidence that show access to abortion and control over our reproduction contribute to the financial, social, and economic freedom of women. We now have the decision to decide what career path we want to follow, when to start a family at a time that doesn’t disrupt the life of a woman, and gives her the freedom to choose her own path without worrying

“We all move forward when / we recognize how resilient / and striking the women / around us are”

So I’m asking you, for my own personal future, the future of my current peers, and the future of my younger sisters do NOT put a cap on our potential and dreams on our bodily autonomy just so you can claim this as a political spoil. Don’t take away our choice because as we know it always does more harm than good.