



Jessica Warner

Proponent Testimony on Senate Bill 155

Senate Health, Human Services, and Medicaid Committee

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Chairman Burke, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today on Senate Bill 155. My name is Jessica Warner and I am the Director of Legislative Affairs for Ohio Right to Life. Today, I speak on behalf of our board, affiliated chapters, and statewide membership in support of Senate Bill 155, the Abortion Pill Reversal Information Act.

This legislation would simply build upon Ohio's current informed consent law by requiring the Ohio Department of Health to publish information on its website informing a woman undergoing a chemical abortion that it is possible for the process to be reversed if action is taken in time, and to provide information on how to access the resources to help her do so. Doctors prescribing mifepristone-based chemical abortions would also be required to provide this information 24 hours prior to providing the abortion.

There many examples of women, some of whom we will hear from today, who have felt pressured into abortion by either their family, boyfriends, financial situations, or a host of other outside forces telling them what they couldn't do. They felt abortion was their only option. However, after they began the process of a chemical abortion, these women regretted their decision and wished they could go back, reverse the abortion, and save their unborn child.

The good news today is that if a woman takes the initial step and takes the first pill to begin a chemical abortion, there are steps she can take to reverse it if she changes her mind. This legislation is intended to inform her of that possibility. This bill works to give women real



choices by providing them information regarding the possibility of reversing their chemical abortion.

In order to understand the reversal process, I should first explain how a Mifepristone abortion works. The Mifeprex chemical abortion regimen is the most common form and works by using the first pill, mifepristone, to block a woman's progesterone receptors. Progesterone is a naturally occurring hormone in a woman, often referred to as the "pregnancy hormone."¹ That is because progesterone functions to aid the development of the unborn child during pregnancy and maintain a supportive environment for him or her to grow. Mifepristone, however, works to block the mother's progesterone receptors, and once ingested, will lead to the death of the developing baby within 24-72 hours by causing the uterine lining to begin breaking down. The woman would then take the second pill, misoprostol, which would induce labor, causing her body to expel the baby's remains from her uterus.

If a woman regrets her decision after starting this chemical abortion and wishes to reverse the process *before she has taken the second pill*, a doctor would simply prescribe her progesterone. The prescribed progesterone would work by overwhelming the mifepristone blockers in her system and encouraging the continued growth and development of the unborn baby.

This process is simple and has been established and tested by physicians. The Abortion Pill Reversal regimen has successfully been used to save **over 900 babies** from chemical abortions and has been found to be 64-68% effective. Already, over 33 providers in Ohio, primarily OB-GYNs, have stated they that are ready and willing to provide this treatment to any woman seeking to reverse her chemical abortion.

¹ <https://resolve.org/infertility-101/the-female-body/progesterone-pregnancy-vital-connection/>



Opponents of this legislation will claim a few things, first, that this hasn't been properly tested or approved by the FDA. The reality is that progesterone is safe and has been commonly prescribed for off-label use for women in Assisted Reproductive Treatments such as invitro fertilization , or for women who are at high risk for miscarriage during their first trimester. Also, the studies that opponents suggest are lacking do not exist for good reason: no doctor could ethically or in good conscience give a pregnant woman seeking to save the life of her baby a placebo as part of some sort of ruinous control group in a double blind study.

I also ask that you pay special attention to the written testimony today that was sent in by OB-GYNs and other physicians who couldn't be here this afternoon. They have lent their medical expertise to attest to the scientific soundness of this process and why they believe that Abortion Pill Reversal Information should be added to Ohio's informed consent law.

In the end, this is about giving women who are in difficult situations all the information they need so that they can make the most informed decisions possible. This process has been tested and proven to save lives, and women who want a second chance for their child should be able to know that there is hope and that this option is available to them. If one believes that abortion is truly about a woman's choice, then it logically follows she should be aware of all of her options.

In conclusion, on behalf of Ohio Right to Life, I ask that you vote in favor of Senate Bill 155 to give real choice back to women and a chance at life to their babies.