

Leesa Husar
Senate Bill 260 – Telemedicine Abortion Ban
Opponent Testimony
Ohio Senate Health, Human Services, and Medicaid Committee
February 26, 2020

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 the opportunity to present testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 260.

My name is Leesa Husar. I am a 63-year-old statistical anomaly who became pregnant during the Blizzard of 1978 while implanted with an intrauterine device. I am strongly opposed to SB260.

My abortion would have been legal even before Roe v. Wade as it was considered medically advisable due to the damage copper would cause in a fetus.

I was crushed by the fact that I became pregnant while using the most effective birth control available at the time as I was a college student who had decided during high school that I did not want to have children. I never wanted to be a mom, but I don't think that meant I was never allowed to have sex.

He carried on as though he were the pregnant one, and he thought I should go ahead and deliberately bring a brain-damaged baby into the world. That to me would have been the height of irresponsibility, second only to giving the child away after birth. You see, I lost a parent in a car wreck when I was very young, only 6 years old. Dad didn't leave on purpose but it felt that way. I absolutely refused to cause that aching feeling of abandonment and loss in another child.

Add in a pair of physically and emotionally abusive grandparents (one of them also a serial sexual abuser) and you may start to understand why I would not, could never, cast a child into the system.

Especially not one who would be guaranteed to have disabilities and would be a public charge for their entire life. I took all of the responsibility on my shoulders and ended the pregnancy.

I am hoping you come to understand how intensely personal and individual the circumstances are for each person when the subject is reproduction. I was told that it was God's will that my father should die when I felt I needed him. I feel that my experiences and that pregnancy so long ago were God's will so that I could explain to you that it is wrong for anyone to interfere with a woman's choices. We know what is best for our individual circumstance.

A few years later I had unprotected sex at a very fertile time. (If you've never made a mistake in your life, then good for you!) I was near hysterics the next morning, called in late to work and went to my doctor's office for the morning-after pill. I was fortunate enough to have a car, a compassionate boss and a doctor and a pharmacy close by.

That is not the case for many women. Telemedicine can help when those resources are not available.

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

Leesa Husar