

**Vicki Rager Colon, MD**  
**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 Vicki Rager Colon. I am an obstetrician/gynecologist in Dayton, Ohio. I am strongly opposed to Senate Bill 260. This bill would restrict access to vital health care for a large portion of patients that live in rural areas of Ohio remote from the ability to otherwise obtain adequate early medical care.

As a physician who routinely sees patients that drive long distances for their care, I see first hand the hardships that limited access to health care creates. Telemedicine is increasingly becoming an avenue for patients that have geographic limitations to get the medical care they so desperately need. Medical abortion, a service that can be obtained through telemedicine technology has been shown to be a safe and effective way to terminate a pregnancy. In a prospective cohort study of women obtaining medical abortion by telemedicine or in-person physician visits, adverse event occurred in 1.3% of patients and were not statistically different between the two groups (1). The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists supports the use of telemedicine services for medical abortion. Restricting use will only harm my patients and a large number of Ohioans. I ask you to consider my testimony and vote against this dangerous bill.

Thank you,  
Vicki Rager Colon, MD

1. Grossman D, Grindlay K, Buchacker T, Lane K, Blanchard K. Effectiveness and acceptability of medical abortion provided through telemedicine. *Obstet Gynecol* 2011;118:296-303.