

CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF OHIO

November 18, 2021

Testimony in Support of SB 157 Born Alive Infant Protection Act

Thank you, Chair Manchester, Vice Chair Cutrona, Ranking Minority Member Liston, and members of the House Families, Aging, and Human Services Committee. My name is Jerry Freewalt. I am the Executive Director of the Catholic Conference of Ohio. On behalf of the Catholic Bishops of Ohio, I urge your support of SB 157, the Born Alive Infant Protection Act.

The Catholic Church's teaching concerning abortion is well known. We hold that from the first moment of existence, a human being has the right to life. Each person has a God-given dignity that should be nurtured and protected. Abortion is a grave violation of human rights and human dignity.

Strengthening protections for babies born alive through an attempted abortion procedure is basic to human decency. The nationwide research studies cited by the bill's sponsors indicate at least 143 children died after being born alive in abortion facilities. This is deeply troubling. Each child, born and unborn, deserves compassion.

We support the proposed provisions requiring reports to be made after a child is born alive following an abortion or attempted abortion, establishing penalties for failing to preserve the health or life of a child in such cases, and to make changes regarding variances from written transfer agreements.

We thank the sponsors and cosponsors of this legislation and encourage your support for SB 157.