



**Proponent Testimony on Senate Bill 157
House Families, Aging, and Human Services Committee
Thursday, November 18, 2021**

Chairwoman Manchester, Vice Chair Cutrona, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the House Families, Aging, and Human Services Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today on Senate Bill 157. My name is Margie Christie and I am the Executive Director of Dayton Right to Life and a past President of the Right to Life Action Coalition of Ohio. I am testifying on behalf of our thousands of members statewide who are asking for your support on this important piece of legislation. The Born-Alive Infant Protection Act protects infants who have survived an abortion procedure. Currently there are no sufficient protections on the federal level. As many of us know, the federal version of this bill has been stalled in recent years in the United States House of Representatives. I would like to point out that during the 116th Congress, the Born-Alive Act Discharge Petition set a record for the most signatures within 24 hours of a discharge petition being introduced. Every single House Republican and three House Democrats signed the petition. Our citizens want protections for these infants who survive abortions, especially here in Ohio. Many of the opponents to this legislation do not feel it is needed, but it is. In the Dayton area, we have seen this situation at least twice. Former State Senator Peggy Lehner, was the Dayton Right to Life's Executive Director in 1999, when in a span of 6 months, 2 babies survived abortionist Dr. Haskell's partial-birth abortion procedure. Baby Hope died after a few hours, but the other, Baby Grace lived on. I have enclosed the articles from the archives. [Second Ohio Baby in Six Months Survives Apparent Beginning Phase of Three \(nrlc.org\)](#)

Thankfully, the partial-birth abortion procedure was outlawed, but babies can still survive abortions today. You can read about hundreds of survival stories on the site www.abortionsurvivors.org. Some more famous survivors include Melissa Ohden, Gianna Jessen, Josiah Presley, Claire Culwell, and hundreds of others. You can find their stories at www.facesofchoice.org.

What about Ohio? We know based on the most recent Ohio Abortion Report for 2020, that over 100 infants, killed by abortion, were at least 21 weeks or older. Certainly, many of those babies would have survived their mother's choice. Just this past week in the news, the world's most premature baby ever, born at 21 weeks and 1 day, is thriving now at almost 18 months. Just like the barbaric partial-birth abortion procedure, Ohioans want "afterbirth abortion" outlawed in our State.

We also know from the abortion report that there were 46 "failed abortions" reported. What does that mean? What happened to those babies? Were they left to die? This bill will provide better answers to those questions and Ohioans can be guaranteed that these "failed abortions" are not left to die, but instead become miraculous survivals and the thriving children they were meant to be.

Many folks want to make this issue divisive, but I believe we can all agree that no person in Ohio should ever be left to die. Not in the streets, not in our hospitals, and certainly not in our ambulatory surgical facilities. This bill is not about abortion and does not limit it, in any shape or form. It poses no challenge to Roe vs. Wade. This bill simply gives a child born alive, outside the womb, regardless of its circumstance, the chance to live. Perhaps these children will be adopted and cared for like in the case of baby Grace.

Additionally, Dayton Right to Life and the Right to Life Action Coalition of Ohio fully supports the added amendment that prohibits our tax dollars go to the universities whose faculty members and staff provide supportive services for abortion facilities.

On behalf of thousands of Daytonians and Ohioans, we ask for your support of Senate Bill 157 and provide protection for our children who survive an abortion.

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