

Chairwoman Manchester, Vice Chair Cutrona, ranking Member Liston and members of the Committee...

Thank you for the opportunity to make a very brief statement today.

My name is Robert Tuttle, and I'm speaking on behalf of myself, my family, Dayton Right to Life and as a Board Member of the Right to Life Action Coalition of Ohio.

This Committee has taken up dozens of pieces of important legislation this session, and the session is not over by a long shot. However, I would submit to you that there is no more important legislation than this one, that clearly and unambiguously protects a living baby. This is not a lump of flesh, like a limb or a bodily organ that belongs to the woman who is his/her mother. This is a distinct, whole, living, human being, made in the image of our Creator (as is recognized specifically in our Founding Documents). I don't believe this can be disputed.

As a living human being, this BABY is entitled to all the rights and protections afforded to any American Citizen, **born** in this country, both by the Constitution of the United States and by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Ohio. Our unalienable right to LIFE in this country is sacrosanct. Governments are instituted among men to secure this most fundamental and sacred right.

Opponents of this Bill seem to be more concerned with paperwork, or a slippery slope than with human life. This Bill poses no challenge to Roe vs Wade. This baby is born and he/she is alive. Any physician should be anxious to provide emergency care to a living baby that is in danger, so why would anyone oppose this? This Bill does not deny care in any way to a pregnant woman. And, a little extra paperwork to document the tragic death of a citizen of Ohio is not an unreasonable burden- whether the baby is minutes old or weeks old or months old.

In addition to protecting LIFE, Senate Bill 157 also includes a clear statement by this Legislature that, while abortion itself is being considered and debated, in the State of Ohio, we will not allow public funds to be used to enable or promote abortion.

Even if abortion is indeed a private matter between a woman and her doctor or a woman and her faith, public funds should not be used to support or enable this private decision.

Robert Tuttle
Statement to the Ohio House Families, Aging, and Human Services Committee
In Support of Sub. S. B. No. 157
November 18, 2021

In Dayton, for example, Wright State University, through its Boonshoft School of Medicine, is funding an Affiliate Organization (to the tune of millions of dollars per year enabled by public funds) whose doctors are directly enabling or participating in abortions at an abortion facility in the city of Kettering. They are providing the hospital admission privileges that the hospitals have been heretofore unwilling to provide, allowed only because of a radical and arbitrary variance granted by our former Director of the Ohio Department of Health. And yes, at least one teaching faculty member of Wright State University is performing abortions at this Kettering abortion facility on a weekly basis. This must be stopped.

It is sad and unfortunate that Senate Bill 157 is even necessary. While some states struggle to pass legislation to protect babies that are born alive after an abortion attempt, other states have reduced protections (NY and Illinois) because they apparently found the paperwork tedious. Life is sacred and protected by our Founding Documents and our Constitution. Without this Law, babies who are accidentally born alive are at the mercy of a physician whose sole purpose for being there was to terminate that very life. This Bill is not onerous or unreasonable to protect human life. We are depending on you to protect this fundamental and unalienable right in Ohio.

Therefore, I urge the members of this Committee to support this Bill, including all current Amendments, both through this Committee and to ultimate passage on House Floor. Even one baby born alive and left to die, or worse, in Ohio is too many.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Robert Tuttle
Springboro, Ohio