

Good morning, Chair Manchester, Vice Chair Cutrona, Ranking Member Liston and all the committee members. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of the Born Alive Protection Act. My name is Lucy Ross. I am a student at Owens Community College.

This is not a complicated issue. This bill addresses a situation where a child has been born alive and is lying on a table in need of medical attention and care. All this bill does is confirm that the medical professionals in the room are obligated to provide the same sort of care that they would provide to any other child. The circumstances of the child's birth don't change that fact. It's really that simple. A child born alive should be cared for. That's all this bill really says. As a part of that care, it adds a requirement to report each child that is born alive. During a late term abortion, the infant is given a lethal injection. Early labor is induced, and the mother delivers what everyone hopes is a dead child. However, between 2003 and 2014 the CDC reported 143 cases of children who were born alive after an abortion.

Preborn children can survive outside of the womb as early as 22 weeks. The earliest preborn child who survived was 21 weeks old. In Ohio, late term abortions are illegal in most cases. The exceptions are when the mother's life is in danger and when there is fetal defect. Despite this, 95 late term abortions happened last year, and we have no idea how many babies survived the abortion procedure only to be killed through neglect. Senet Bill 157 would enable us to know how many infants survive the abortion procedures. Abortion is the termination of a pregnancy. No matter if the child is alive or dead, the abortion has done its job. The pregnancy has been ended. Once the child is born, he or she is now a born child who deserves the same protection as every other person in the world.

The heartbeat begins between 5-6 weeks into the pregnancy. By 21 weeks, the baby looks like an infant and can move in the womb. In 2003, a Florida abortionist failed to complete the abortion properly and delivered a live child. He proceeded to throw the child in the trash and allowed the baby to die. In the early 2000s, former abortionist Kermit Gosnell performed late term abortions. If the child survived, he would stab them in the back in the back of the head with a pair of scissors. There are many cases of abortionists leaving a child to die through neglect. Some, such as Kermit Gosnell, would proceed to kill the child. The abortion industry wants you to believe no one can survive an abortion. They deny that there are any people alive today who were born from botched abortions. Mellissa Ohden is one such abortion survivor. Her mother had a saline abortion and delivered a live child. The doctors discarded Mellissa as if she were trash. A nurse found her and felt that she could not leave an innocent child to starve and freeze to death. She saved her life.

I would like to pose a question now. The penalty for killing a bald eagle in Ohio is 1 year in jail and a \$100,000 fine. The penalty for killing a red-tailed hawk in Ohio is \$15,000 and/or 6 months in jail. These are only a few animals that people protect from death. And so, my question is, why are people willing to protect animals, but they are not willing to protect their own children from death. You do not need to oppose abortion in order to support this bill. You

only need to oppose infanticide. I am here today to urge you to support House Bill 409 to ensure that preborn babies regardless of the manner of delivery, are given an equal chance at life. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.

