

Testimony of Dominique Rehl, OMS-1.

In opposition to SB157

Submitted to Families, Aging, and Human Services Committee on December 6, 2021

Chairman/woman Rep Manchester, Vice Chair Cutrona, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the Families, Aging & Human Services Committee,

Thank you for taking the time to read my written testimony today. My name is Dominique Rehl and I am a medical student in Athens, Ohio at the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine. I am a member of the Physician Action Network and Medical Students for choice. I am strongly opposed to SB157 for many reasons.

First and foremost, the science and the literature show that resuscitation of a fetus under 24 weeks is very unsuccessful. The survival rate is dismal and 80% die in the first few weeks of life. Under SB157, physicians who failed to follow the legislatures directives and fail to correctly file paperwork would be charged with felonies. This undoubtedly allows the inappropriate bleeding of legislature into medicine. The role and duty of physicians is to follow the guidance of science and evidence-based practice to best serve their patients, not to follow the directives of legislatures with little to no medical background. In addition, forcing patients to watch the fetus attempt to be resuscitated would cause extreme emotional distress.

This law would further limit access to abortion in the Southwest area of Ohio. Abortion is so common, many patients would be forced to travel hours to access safe abortion care. Limiting doctors from performing abortions does not make abortion safer, it only forces patients to find alternate and dangerous ways to terminate their pregnancy.

Abortion is routine medical care, and it is a physician's duty to provide evidence-based, safe, and informed care to patients who want it. The evidence shows that abortion is safe and effective, and that fetal resuscitation under 24 weeks is practically never successful and not medically indicated. Please oppose this legislation that would take away the rights of not only citizens with a uterus, but also the rights of physicians to provide care based on science and our extensive medical education.