

Testimony of Albert Vargas
In opposition to Senate Bill 157
Submitted to the Families, Aging and Human Services Committee
December 6, 2021

Chairman Manchester, Vice Chair Cutrona, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the House Families, Aging, and Human Services Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent testimony for Senate Bill 157 (SB 157). My name is Albert Vargas. I testify today as a medical student at Ohio University – Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine and member of the Physicians Action Network.

As a medical student and future physician, I am strongly opposed to SB157. The bill puts legislators between a patient and their doctor when a person is losing a pregnancy. It would force physicians to perform inappropriate and futile procedures. The indication for these procedures as written is not based on evidence. The viability of a fetus outside of the womb is not based on a fixed time point in the pregnancy and varies by individual.

It is shocking to me that this bill completely disregards both the physician's autonomy and the patient's wishes. This bill would also open physicians to being charged with felonies for failing to follow legislation, even if it conflicts with the physician's medical expertise and the patient's wishes. For these reasons, I am strongly opposed to this bill and as a future physician with lifelong ties to Ohio, I cannot imagine practicing in a state disregards the physician-patient relationship in this way.