

Monday, December 6, 2021

Dear 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. My name is Beth Simons. I am a second-year medical student in Athens, Ohio. My program of medical education emphasizes patient-centered care as one of the most important skills physicians need to provide excellent healthcare and healing.

I am writing in adamant opposition to SB157 for many reasons, the least of which is that it places a substantial portion of post-abortion patient-care in the hands of legislators who have no healthcare training and who have never met these patients. Abortions are necessary for a variety of reasons, and they are very often difficult and painful experiences for individuals and families. This is a time for a patient to recover, grieve, and heal in whatever way they need with the support of family, friends, and their physician. The bill puts legislators between a patient and their doctor when a person is losing a pregnancy, forcing physicians to provide inappropriate and futile medical care procedures. Physicians who fail to follow the legislature's dictates — even if the legislatively-mandated procedures are against the family's wishes — and fail to correctly file required paperwork would be charged with felonies.

I would like to urge legislators to focus on bills that improve health care for all people rather than building barriers to health, wellness, and appropriate, compassionate patient care. This policy is an attempt to limit options for the medically underserved and stigmatize healthcare providers who truly wish to help people. Dr. Francis W. Peabody said, in a speech to Harvard medical students in 1925, "the secret of the care of the patient is in caring for the patient." Please oppose this legislation so that I may care for future patients to the best of my ability.

Sincerely,



Beth N Simons, MA, OMS-II ([she/her](#))
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