

Testimony of Joseph Pokorski, OMS-II
In opposition to Senate Bill 157
Submitted to the Families, Aging and Human Services Committee December 6, 2021

I am a second-year medical student in Ohio, and I have clinical experience in medical Spanish interpreting and in bedside care working alongside nurses and doctors on a level I trauma center in Dayton. My undergraduate training included Spanish and Biochemistry. As a future doctor that is patient-centered, I would be **resentful to practice medicine in Ohio with SB157** as it undermines the patient-physician relationship without having a medical basis or valid reason.

This bill is another act of disservice to patients that deserve the right to make a decision with their medical provider that is based on their individual circumstance. Abortions done in the United States are safe and a part of routine care.

One major factoid to consider from the perspective of a future doctor is that viability of a fetus is different based on patient circumstances. Passing this law will undermine the ability of a doctor in the United States to practice what their training prepares them for: providing patient-centered routine care. There are cases after the predicted age of viability when a fetus is born and is unable to survive outside of the womb. After careful consideration, a family may decide with their physician to provide compassionate end of life care by not performing to keep that infant alive. This bill will not allow these importance choices to be made in these circumstances.

I urge you to recognize SB157 for what it is, an attempt to strip the patient from making a choice in a part of their child's medical care that is safe and an established right of medical care.