

79TH HOUSE DISTRICT

PARTS OF CLARK COUNTY

INCLUDING: SPRINGFIELD, NEW CARLISLE,
SOUTH CHARLESTON, AND ENON

COMMITTEES

CHAIR: AGRICULTURE & CONSERVATION
PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION



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State Representative Kyle Koehler Ohio House of Representatives

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo and Members of the House Health Committee – thank you for allowing me to give sponsor testimony on House Bill 378.

This bill expands on Ohio’s current informed consent laws by doing two things:

1. Just as the Ohio Department of Health provides informational material on STI prevention, infant mortality prevention, and parent support program – this bill requires ODH to publish information about abortion pill reversal on their website;
2. The bill requires a physician planning to induce a chemical abortion to provide a copy of these ODH published materials to the pregnant woman at least 24 hours prior to the procedure.

Currently, twelve other states have enacted similar legislation – Arizona, Arkansas, Idaho, Utah, Kentucky, South Dakota, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Tennessee, North Dakota, Indiana, and West Virginia.

There has been ongoing debate regarding the scientific basis of the abortion pill reversal treatment. The scientific studies that have been completed with the express goal of understanding abortion pill reversal all have their flaws – lack of control group, small sample size, and incomplete trials.

When reading these studies and evaluating their results, we must consider the ethical limitations.

While I’m sure we can all agree that a control group or robust randomized trial are ideal – it is inherently unethical to intentionally impregnate someone just to cause an abortion. Similarly, it is equally unethical to give a placebo to a woman seeking to reverse her abortion.

Here’s what science does tell us –

- For over 50-years progesterone, a naturally occurring hormone, has been given to pregnant women in high doses by OB-GYNs to prevent pregnancy loss, specifically for women who are at high-risk of miscarriage.
- The reversal treatment constitutes administering a large dose of progesterone, orally or by intramuscular injection, under the care and advisement of a doctor, to counteract the Mifepristone, a progesterone blocker.
- Over 30 providers, primarily OB-GYNs, in Ohio are administering this regimen.
- According to Heartbeat International, more than 2,500 abortion reversals have been achieved using this regimen.

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This bill, at its core, is about informed consent. Women deserve to have all relevant medical information provided to them when making decisions about their health. This bill does not prohibit abortion, it does not stop a woman from receiving or taking the abortion pill. Nor does it require a woman to pursue the abortion pill reversal regimen.

HB 378 empowers women to make a truly informed choice about their health and the health of their baby. Abortion pill reversal has shown to be effective when undertaken with the care of a trusted physician.

When faced with difficult, painful decisions – women deserve to have all the information. For women who change their mind, abortion pill reversal is their opportunity to prove they did everything they can to save their baby.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill. Rep. Fowler-Arthur and I will stand for questions.