

House Bill 378 Proponent Testimony
House Health Committee
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Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Liston and members of the Committee, thank you for providing the opportunity for proponent testimony on House Bill 378, which would establish protocols for notifying women of the potential of reversing a chemical abortion procedure once it has been begun. I am here today representing Right to Life of Greater Cincinnati, which supports this important legislation..

Non-surgical abortions account for over one-third of the total number of abortion performed annually in Ohio. This chemical procedure, usually performed during the first trimester of pregnancy, requires a pregnant woman take a combination of drugs, mifepristone (RU-486) and misoprostol, in order to kill an unborn child and induce her body to expel the dead child.

The first dose, the RU-486, works to block progesterone, a natural hormone that is

foundational to the continuation of a healthy pregnancy, and over approximately 72 hours will kill the unborn child. Then misoprostol is utilized to condition the woman's body to expel the baby's body.

This is where HB 378 comes into play: Within that 72 hour period after the administration of the first drug, should a woman regret the decision to begin the chemical abortion procedure or actually change her mind about it, a therapy can be utilized by the pregnant woman to save the unborn child's life.

That therapy, being provided right now by multiple hundreds of medical providers, utilizes the administration of large doses of progesterone, the natural hormone produced during pregnancy, to reverse the effects of RU-486.

This therapy is showing great success. A 2018 peer-reviewed study showed that between 64-68% of pregnancies where the woman chose to discontinue the chemical abortion procedure and

opt for the reversal procedure were saved. Given that this therapy utilizes a naturally-occurring hormone found in the pregnant woman's body, there have been no statistically-significant increases in birth defects and more encouragingly there is a lower pre-term delivery rate among this population.

HB 378 would require the Department of Health to publish and maintain information on the Department's web site to inform pregnant women of this therapy option. The bill also requires the abortion provider to, as part of the informed consent procedure 24 hours prior to the abortion, provide copies of this information to the pregnant woman.

Failure to do so would result in a first degree misdemeanor on first offense, and a fourth-degree felony on subsequent offenses. The bill also provides a woman, who wanted to reverse her decision but was not provided the necessary information to choose such opportunity, the right to

file a claim for wrongful death of her unborn child should the abortion continue to completion.

This bill ensures that women are provided information on full medical options available to her around this procedure, and Right to Life of Greater Cincinnati is happy to support a pro-science, pro-woman and pro-life bill. We applaud the joint sponsors, Representatives Koehler and Fowler-Arthur, and look forward to the committee favorably reporting this bill from committee.