



**Mary Parker**

**Proponent Testimony on HB 378**

**House Health Committee**

**Tuesday, March 8, 2022**

Chairman Lipps, Vice-Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity today to provide testimony in favor of House Bill 378, the Abortion Pill Reversal Information Act. My name is Mary Parker, and I am the Director of Legislative Affairs for Ohio Right to Life. Today, I speak on behalf of our board, affiliated chapters, and statewide membership in support of House Bill 378.

This legislation builds upon Ohio's current informed consent law by requiring the Ohio Department of Health to publish information on its website about the possibility of a woman reversing a chemical abortion and how to access the resources to help her do so. Additionally, doctors prescribing a mifepristone-chemical abortion would be required to provide this information prior to providing a chemical abortion.

I would like to provide some background information to help explain why this bill is so important. Mifepristone is the most-used method of abortion in Ohio. According to Ohio's 2020 Induced Abortion Report, mifepristone-induced abortions accounted for 47% of all abortions. This is an increase of 26% since the previous year. This has increased dramatically since 2015 when



mifepristone abortions only accounted for 4% of non-surgical terminations. Nearly 10,000 women in Ohio had a mifepristone chemical abortion in 2020. With the rise in chemical abortions, there is also a greater likelihood that some of these women will want to reverse their chemical abortions and save their unborn children. This legislation is intended to inform them of that possibility. This bill works to give women real choices by providing them information regarding the possibility of reversing their chemical abortion.

Chemical abortion, also known as a mifepristone-abortion or medical abortion, is a two-drug regimen that is approved by the FDA for use up to 10 weeks into pregnancy. The first drug, mifepristone blocks progesterone's actions by binding to a woman's progesterone receptors. Progesterone is a naturally occurring hormone that is necessary to sustain a healthy pregnancy. Blocking progesterone causes fetal demise within 24-72 hours. The second pill, misoprostol is administered 24-48 hours later. Misoprostol induces contractions and expels the child.

If a woman regrets her decision after starting her chemical abortion and wishes to reverse the process before taking the second pill (misoprostol) a doctor would employ the Abortion Pill Reversal protocol. This entails prescribing enough supplemental progesterone to overcome the effects of mifepristone. An ultrasound is performed as soon as possible to confirm the heartbeat, placing, and dating of the pregnancy. Should the reversal be successful, the woman would continue to take progesterone until the end of the first trimester.



This is both safe and effective. Progesterone has been used safely in pregnancy since the 1950s, and it was approved by the FDA in 1998. The American Society of Reproductive Medicine has stated that there are no long-term risks identified when using progesterone in pregnancy. Progesterone is commonly used to reduce the risk of premature birth and recurring miscarriage. It makes biological sense to prescribe supplemental progesterone to overcome the effects of a progesterone antagonist, such as mifepristone. It has successfully saved **3,000 babies** from chemical abortions and has a 64%-68% success rate. The Abortion Pill Reversal process has been established and tested by physicians. Already, there are 32 providers in Ohio, primarily OB-GYNs, who are willing to provide this treatment to women seeking to reverse their chemical abortions.

In the end, this is about giving women who are in difficult situations all the information they need so that they can make the most informed decisions possible. This process has been tested and proven to save lives, and women who want a second chance for their child should be able to know that there is hope and that this option is available to them. If one believes that abortion is truly about a woman's choice, then it logically follows she should be aware of all of her options.

In conclusion, on behalf of Ohio Right to Life, I ask that you vote in favor of House Bill 378 to give real choice back to women and a chance at life to their babies.