



Proponent Testimony House Bill 378

Melanie Miller, Executive Director

Ashland Pregnancy Care Center

March 8, 2022

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Liston, and Members of the House Health committee – thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 378.

My name is Melanie Miller and I serve as the Executive Director of Ashland Pregnancy Care Center, a faith-based pro-life pregnancy resource center, which provides compassion, hope, and help to women and men facing critical pregnancy decisions since 1981. In the last 7 years as Executive Director, I have been trained and certified through Heartbeat International as a “Life Affirming Specialist” (LAS) and our center was awarded by the Ashland Area Chamber of Commerce as the 2018 Health & Medical Services Organization of the Year. In 2018, our center began the process of becoming a part of the Abortion Pill Rescue Network. We hired our Nurse Manager Chris Coffy in 2020, and today we are serving as an Abortion Pill Reversal (APR) consulting center. Our hope is to be an APR prescribing center in the very near future.

Many women who find themselves facing an unexpected pregnancy come to pregnancy resource centers to learn about their pregnancy options. Our trained staff and volunteers educate women with medically accurate resources and information about abortion & related risks, pregnancy, and adoption. Women deserve excellent care. Women deserve accurate information about her options so that she can make an informed decision about her pregnancy. House Bill 378 empowers women to make a truly informed choice about her health and the health of her baby. For a woman who regrets beginning a chemical abortion, abortion pill reversal gives the mother a second chance – hope – that she can save her baby.

Abortion Pill Reversal has shown to be very effective when undertaken with the care of a trusted physician, nearly 64%-68% of the pregnancies were saved. Thanks to the Abortion Pill Rescue Network, statistics show that **more than 3,000 lives have been saved** and counting (according to Heartbeat International). The protocol used in the Abortion Pill Reversal process is nothing new. In fact, progesterone has been used routinely and safely with pregnancy since the 1950s.

In recent years, especially during COVID, chemical abortion has increased in numbers across the nation and in the state of Ohio. House Bill 378 extends a second chance to women who change their mind.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony in favor of House Bill 378.