



Proponent Testimony on Senate Bill 157
Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee
Wednesday, October 6, 2021

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today on Senate Bill 157. My name is Margie Christie and I am the Executive Director of Dayton Right to Life and past President of the Right to Life Action Coalition of Ohio. I am testifying on behalf of our thousands of members statewide who are asking for your support on this important piece of legislation. We want to thank the sponsor, Sen. Roegner for shining the light on this horrific practice. The Born Alive Infant Protection Act is truly needed in our state. Currently there are no sufficient protections on the federal level. As many of us know, the federal version of this bill has been stalled in recent years in the U.S. House. I would like to point out that during the 116th Congress, the Born-Alive Act discharge petition set a record for the most signatures within 24 hours of a discharge petition being introduced. Every single House Republican and three House Democrats signed the petition. Our citizens want protections for these infants who survive abortions.

Do we need such laws here in Ohio? Unfortunately, Ohio, and especially the Dayton area, have seen this situation several times in our 50-year history. Former State Senator Peggy Lehner, was the Dayton's Executive Director in 1999, when in a span of 6 months, 2 babies survived abortionist's Dr. Haskell's partial birth abortion procedure. Baby Hope died after a few hours, but the other Baby Grace lived on. I have enclosed the articles from the archives. [Second Ohio Baby in Six Months Survives Apparent Beginning Phase of Three \(nrlc.org\)](#)

Thankfully that procedure was outlawed, but babies can still survive abortions today. You can read about hundreds' of stories on site www.abortionsurvivors.org. We know, based on the Ohio Abortion report that came out last Friday, that over 100 infants were killed by abortion in 2020 were at least 21 weeks or older. Many of those could have survived their mother's choice. How many did and were left to die? Just like the barbaric partial birth abortion,

procedure, Ohioans want “afterbirth abortion” outlawed in our State. No one in this State should ever be left to die. Not in the streets, not in our hospitals, and certainly not in our ambulatory surgical facilities. This bill is not about abortion and does not limit it, in any shape or form. It poses no challenge to Roe V Wade. This bill simply gives a child born alive, outside the womb, regardless of its circumstance, the chance to live.

On behalf of thousands of Daytonians and Ohioans, we ask for your support of Senate Bill 157 and provide protection for our children born alive.