

CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF OHIO

October 27, 2021

Testimony in Support of SB 123 Enact the Human Life Protection Act

Thank you, Chairman Huffman, Vice Chairman Antani, ranking minority member Antonio and members of the Senate Health Committee. My name is Jerry Freewalt. I am the Executive Director of the Catholic Conference of Ohio. On behalf of the Catholic Bishops of Ohio I urge your support of SB 123. The passage of this legislation would ban abortions in Ohio in the event that *Roe v. Wade* is overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court, and states are given the power to set abortion policy.

The Catholic Church's teaching concerning abortion is well known. We hold that every child, at every moment of existence, deserves love and the protection of the law. We do not believe any person or government has the right to take the life of an innocent human being – and we hold that the real problems that lead women to consider abortion should be addressed with solutions that support both mother and child.

The tragic legacy of *Roe v. Wade* is virtually incalculable. Public policy should be measured by how it both respects the life and dignity of the human person and advances the common good. In its wake this decision has left death, sorrow, and turmoil. Ohio must be at the ready with sound policy when *Roe v. Wade* is overturned.

We thank Senators Kristina Roegner and Sandra O'Brien for sponsorship of this legislation.