



Emma Martinez
Sub House Bill 475
House Government Oversight Committee
November 12, 2024

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chairman Thomas, ranking member Humphrey, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on Sub House Bill 475. My name is Emma Martinez and I am the Director of Legislative Affairs at Ohio Right to Life. On behalf of Ohio Right to Life and our statewide membership, chapters and affiliates, I am here in support of Sub HB 475.

Over the course of the last several years we have witnessed numerous local governments, such as the Cities of Columbus and Cleveland, skirt current law and dedicate local tax dollars to pay for abortions and abortion related services to include reimbursement for travel and lodging. In fact, the City of Columbus gave over \$500,000.00 of our tax dollars to help fund abortion-related services. Further, media reports claim that the City of Columbus funnels local tax dollars into organizations such as Abortion Fund Ohio which exist to help more abortions happen in Ohio every day.

Clearly Ohio law prohibits taxpayer funding of abortions, and these laws have withstood the test of time. This legislature has enacted numerous laws that protect not only taxpayers from paying for abortions but also laws that protect taxpayers' conscience rights. Sadly, some local governments are skirting our laws and at times appears to be violating Ohio law.

Sub HB 475 will not only clarify Ohio law but the intent of this General Assembly duly elected by the people of Ohio that no tax dollars should pay for abortion.

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Humphrey and members of the committee, thank you again for the opportunity to testify on Sub HB 475. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.