

Proponent Testimony: HB 159

June 24, 2024

Good day,

I am the past Executive Director and founder of Elizabeth's New Life Center in Dayton and Cincinnati, Ohio. I am submitting proponent testimony for the passage of Senate bill 159. The prolife community in Ohio needs the support of the individual taxpayers and this bill would allow them to get a tax credit toward their state income tax for any contribution they make to an accredited prolife Pregnancy Center in Ohio.

Having directed a Pregnancy Center for over 34 years, I can attest to the difficulty of raising private funds to keep our Centers thriving and growing. Now with a budget of over \$5M, Elizabeth's New Life Center has grown to nine women's centers, Marriage Works! Ohio, and Holy Family Prenatal Care, as well as a robust school program called Go for the Gold. Through our efforts, many youths have been encouraged to save sex for marriage and build strong, healthy relationships. Through Marriage Works! Ohio, we serve engaged couples to promote communication, openness, and techniques to help build a strong marriage. Besides this, our nine Women's Centers see thousands of women each year and help them choose life for their unborn children. We provide many medical services as well as material assistance that they need to support their children. Most of the families that we serve are considered low income and without the help of pregnancy centers across Ohio, they would be struggling mightily to care for their children. Because Ohio is a prolife state, we truly believe that Senate bill 159 will be greatly appreciated and welcomed by the taxpayers of Ohio. Thank you for allowing me to submit proponent testimony.

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Sincerely, Vivian Koob.