

## **HB 73 Testimony**

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, and Members of the Senate Health Committee, thank you for hearing my supporting testimony for HB 73, The Dave & Angie Patient and Health Provider Protection Act.

I am the newly installed President of Cleveland Right to Life. You may wonder why I, as a pro-lifer, am here testifying today on a bill that focuses on medical pharmaceutical freedom.

As we have publicized recently on social media, we fight to protect the weak before they are born and the ***born when they are weak***. If you doubt this, please visit our Bringing America Back to Life Convention site to see the number of speakers we've had over the years focusing on euthanasia prevention.

It is sad that HB 73 is required to ensure that we as Ohioans have the freedom to access TRULY safe and effective, prescription medication when necessary. Some of the objections the other side has raised in a pro-life context concerning this bill are:

- It will result in a vast expansion of abortion through the use of drugs like mifepristone.
  - My reply to this – How can there be any further expansion to abortion access post Issue 1 passage? Women can currently order mifepristone, through the mail, across state lines. Also, if a Pharmacist has a moral or religious objection to fulfilling chemical abortion drugs, they can still rely on those objections which are covered in HB73.
- It could result in legalization of physician-assisted suicide.
  - My reply to this –
    - #1, physician assisted suicide is not authorized by Ohio law.
    - #2, in respect to “passive euthanasia”, House Bill 73 actually gives more rights to patients and protects the sanctity of their lives by ensuring that they are not “denied sufficient means of fluid or nutrition.”
    - #3, as regards “active euthanasia”, the prescribing physician must provide the nature and purpose of the recommended drug, so would have to disclose that the purpose of the intervention would be to hasten the death. This act of active euthanasia does not qualify for the legal protection afforded by HB 73.

During COVID, we all heard from the pharmaceutical owned, main-stream media, that ivermectin was horse paste and hydroxychloroquine was unsafe. What they were was CHEAP. Both are off-patent and sell for pennies. The REAL reason that the OPA and the other HOSPITAL organizations are opposed to this Bill – it because it will cut into their revenue streams and federal pandemic kick-backs.

In 2021, my father was in the hospital and we didn't know if he had COVID or not. I spoke to his attending physician. and asked her if she would treat him with Budesonide (another completely safe inhalation treatment). We were told “we don't use that”. Fortunately, he did not have COVID but if he had, we would have had a battle on our hands to get him effective treatments that would have saved him instead of the “standard of care” hospital protocol which included the EUA drug Remdesivir and the ventilator that likely killed thousands of Ohio patients. It is time to let doctors treat patients again. We must continue advocating for the preservation of life even after the child exists the womb.

Cleveland Right to Life asks that our Ohio Senators follow the lead of House members in protecting the lives of the born by voting yes on Sub HB 73.