



State Senator Stephanie Kunze - District 16
State Senator Hearcel Craig – District 15

Senate Health Committee
June 26, 2024
Senate Bill 207 Sponsor Testimony

Senator Kunze:

Thank you Chair Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Health Committee for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 207.

This legislation was brought to me by Dr. Michael Bullock, a pastor in Zanesville, after his daughter, Jennifer, experienced the sad loss of her infant, Miles Owen Moore in October 2021. Though this was a time of grief and sorrow for the Bullock family, the family’s resilience provided them with a newfound purpose of helping others through the difficulties of pregnancy and infant loss. Miles’ Mission, a faith-based organization designed to advocate for and serve families that experience this type of loss, was founded. In honor of Miles, the Bullock family, and every other family that has known the heartache of a stillbirth, Senate Bill 207 would designate September 19th as “Stillbirth Prevention Day.”

Senator Craig:

According to the Ohio Department of Health, stillbirth is a common adverse pregnancy outcome that occurs approximately every 1 in 160 deliveries in the United States. Risk factors include when the mother is African American, a teen, over 35 years of age, unmarried, obese, uses drugs or tobacco, is pregnant with multiples, or has had a previous pregnancy loss.ⁱ Data shows that in 2019, there were 850 fetal deaths in Ohio, with the fetal mortality rate being 6.3 and non-Hispanic black women being nearly twice as likely to experience a stillbirth.ⁱⁱ This is a shared experience

among many mothers in Ohio and deserves the recognition that Senate Bill 207 will create by having a day designated as “Stillbirth Prevention Day,” lending awareness to all the individuals and families that face the challenge of overcoming a loss of this magnitude.

Chair Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present Senate Bill 207. We are happy to answer any questions that you might have.

ⁱ https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/wcm/connect/gov/9713dd3d-43eb-49cd-8bec-472a43a58d58/Stillbirth-Fact-Sheet-10_11_2017.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CONVERT_TO=url&CACHEID=ROOTWORKSPACE.Z18_79GCH8013HMOA06A2E16IV2082-9713dd3d-43eb-49cd-8bec-472a43a58d58-mLWnl38

ⁱⁱ https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/wcm/connect/gov/e03d82ab-be30-4fc6-a90f-f5156ea270cd/Ohio+Fetal+Mortality+Brief%2C+2019.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CONVERT_TO=url&CACHEID=ROOTWORKSPACE.Z18_K9I401S01H7F40QBNJU3SO1F56-e03d82ab-be30-4fc6-a90f-f5156ea270cd-nFEoe2P