

Greetings and thank you, Chair Schmidt, Vice Chair Deeter, and Ranking Member Somani for this opportunity to share our desire to see House Bill 4 passed for the purpose of acknowledging September 19th as Stillbirth Prevention Day.

I am Dr. Michael Bullock, President of Miles' Mission, a nonprofit organization formed in May of 2023. The purpose of our work is to Enhance Awareness, Provide Resources, and Support Families of Pregnancy and Infant Loss. After the loss of my grandson, Miles Owen Moore, we entered a new community of families. Just like many, we didn't know this community existed until we experienced the same traumatic pain as all of them had endured.

As Representative Holmes has shared the statistical information with you, I want to share the reality of what those numbers represent. Having held my stillborn grandson in my arms, the pain and grief of such an experience is insurmountable. As stated, over 21,000 families deal with Stillbirth losses every year. The number of miscarriages and infant losses is even more staggering. For this reason, we believe there is a need to pass the Stillbirth Prevention Bill. Every day these families, like ours, live with the memory of the loss of their angel babies. We grieve every day in some capacity knowing our grief will never end. Our hope is for this bill to help other families in *not* having to endure such a journey of pain like ours.

In addition, this bill is not only for the purpose of awareness, but also to help establish necessary resources. These resources are to help women understand the challenges they face during pregnancy. The C.D.C. and other health organizations tell us that approximately 1 in 4 pregnancies end in some type of loss. For this reason, Miles' Mission has partnered

with more than 20 other nonprofit organizations, 8 different hospitals, nine counseling agencies, and garnered more than twenty businesses who support our efforts. We are striving to find ways to communicate the need for better maternal care within our communities.

We are also collaborating with those in the healthcare industry. We meet regularly with leaders from OhioHealth as they establish their 4th Trimester clinic. And each month, we receive reports from the Central Ohio Hospital Council as they develop guidelines for the purpose of standardized practices in hospitals that have labor and delivery departments.

We feel it is of the utmost importance that we do the very best that we can to help more mothers experience successful births. The more successes we have in positive births, the less possibility there is for a mother to experience a loss.

As I conclude, there is much more to be said about the subject of pregnancy and infant loss. Please, I implore you to pass House Bill 4 as a major step in the right direction in helping families to avoid experiencing one of the most painful and challenging tragedies any of us can ever experience, and that is the loss of a child.

Thank you and God bless!