

**44<sup>th</sup> House District**

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**State Representative Joshua E. Williams  
Ohio House of Representatives**

Chairman Schmidt, Vice-Chair Deeter, Ranking Member Somani, and fellow members of the House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on HB 347 today.

Factually, abortion and reproductive care are declared as rights in the Ohio Constitution, and according to the Legislative Service Commission's analysis of the Issue 1 constitutional amendment: "a state interest is compelling only if it is for the limited purpose of protecting the health of an individual seeking care, consistent with accepted clinical standards of practice and evidence-based medicine, and does not infringe on that individual's autonomous decision making."<sup>1</sup>

This bill seeks to do just that, to ensure that the process of receiving an abortion is consistent with the same "accepted clinical standards of practice and evidence-based medicine" that all major surgeries and health care is. This bill ensures the same informed consent standards applied to all medical care is applied to abortion. Practically, this means that a patient's informed consent be secured a minimum of 24 hours before an abortion is performed and that women are fully informed of the physical and psychological risks associated with having an abortion. This bill also allows recourse to be taken against

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<sup>1</sup> [https://search-prod.lis.state.oh.us/api/v2/general\\_assembly\\_136/legislation/hb347/00\\_IN/pdf/](https://search-prod.lis.state.oh.us/api/v2/general_assembly_136/legislation/hb347/00_IN/pdf/)

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medical providers if they are denied this equal standard of care and if all risks are not fully disclosed to them.

Statistically, the demographics of women most likely to have an abortion are among the least likely to have access to high-quality and trustworthy medical care and are less likely to be fully-informed on the risks and methods for medical procedures like abortion.<sup>234</sup>

Should a woman choose to exercise her constitutional right to an abortion or reproductive care, it is vital that the state hold abortion and reproductive care to the exact same standard as all major medical decisions.

The goal is not to create obstacles, but to ensure that when a woman is facing one of the most difficult decisions of her life, she is empowered with clarity, time, and honest medical information. She should not be rushed, or pressured into a decision and she will not be uninformed in the State of Ohio. This bill is a carefully measured step toward healthcare transparency, patient empowerment, and legal accountability. Chairman Schmidt, Vice-Chair Deeter, Ranking Member Somani, and members of the House Health

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<sup>2</sup> <https://givingcompass.org/article/the-demographic-breakdown-of-women-who-are-getting-abortions>

<sup>3</sup> <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/7732804/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://unitedwaynca.org/blog/healthcare-disparities/#:~:text=The%20Impact%20of%20Healthcare%20Disparities%20on%20Minorities&text=Limited%20access%20to%20quality%20health,access%20necessary%20health%20care%20resources.>

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Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on HB 347. I

welcome any questions you may have.