

Chair Schmidt, Vice Chair Deeter, Ranking Member Somani, and members of the Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Linda Pastor and I have strong opposition to House Bill 324.

House Bill 324 creates medically unnecessary barriers to abortion medication that is safe and effective. Medication abortion has been used safely in the United States for more than 20 years.

This bill is not grounded in evidence or concern for patient safety. In fact, the opposite is true. Research from the University of California's Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health (ANSIRH) program has thoroughly debunked claims used to justify restrictions like those in HB 324. Their findings show that medication abortion is one of the safest medical procedures.

HB 324 also opens the door to wider restrictions. The bill is written broadly enough that it could be used to target other essential medications delivered by telehealth, interfering with patient care for a wide range of conditions.

Additionally, in November 2023, 57% of Ohioans passed the Reproductive Freedom Amendment, clearly rejecting government interference in personal health decisions. Ohioans have strong objections in general to big government overreach such as this that restricts our freedom to make our own decisions about our lives.

House Bill 324 undermines the will of the people, decreases access to medication abortion and potentially more medications, and requires the spread of medical misinformation about essential health care. Ohioans deserve evidence-based healthcare policy, not laws rooted in junk science and ideology.

I urge you to respect the Ohio Reproductive Freedom Amendment and reject HB 324.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Linda Pastor

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