

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 Rebecca Weiss and I am strongly opposed to House Bill 324.

In November of 2023, 57% of Ohioans passed the Reproductive Freedom Amendment, rejecting government interference in personal health decisions. House Bill 324 allows government to interfere in these decisions by restricting access to abortion medication.

House Bill 324 creates medically unnecessary barriers to abortion medication. With regard to safety, research (ANSIRH) has shown that medication abortion is safe and effective with complication rates lower than many standard procedures. It has been approved for generic production and has been used safely in the United States for over 20 years.

Medication abortion is particularly crucial for those individuals who face systemic barriers to healthcare, and for those who live in rural areas without easy access to health care providers. Abortion medications can be prescribed through telehealth appointments providing all Ohioans with equal access to healthcare.

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 many different conditions.

This bill is intended to thwart the will of the people who voted for and passed the Reproductive Freedom Amendment. It is harmful, unnecessary and unjust.

I urge you to vote no on House Bill 234.

Thank you for your time.

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