

Chair Jean Schmidt, Vice Chair Kellie Deeter, Ranking Member Anita Somani, and members
of the Health Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Maxine Irvin. I am a lifelong resident of Ohio, and I am writing to voice strong opposition to House Bill 324.

H.B. 324 is anything but a Patient Protection Act. It is a direct attack against women and the use and availability of Mifepristone. Mifepristone has been found to be safe and effective when used with misoprostol to perform abortions.

The voters of Ohio have spoken and demand that abortions remain legal in Ohio. This bill is a step at restricting that right Ohioans insist must be available.

The decision to have an abortion must be between a woman and her doctor. There are a variety of reasons that a woman may seek an abortion. For the Legislature to create roadblocks that force a woman to jump through hoops, and increase her expenses needlessly is inhumane and could be detrimental to a woman's physical and mental health.

Health care deserts are being created in Ohio and throughout this country because of the policies enacted by the legislature with their draconian ideas and obvious greed. Medical facilities are closing making it more difficult for women especially in rural districts to get the health care they need. Cuts to medical programs and research are making it harder for women to get necessary medical help. Until recently, men's medical health care has been extensively researched, while women's healthcare has been ignored. The current direction the country is taking will make it worse.

Though half of the population, women continue to be marginalized, controlled, and treated like children instead of intelligent people who can think for themselves. This bill continues to belittle women and to take control of their bodies away from them.

If this bill is enacted, it will risk the lives of more women. When there is a safe and effective procedure, attempting to deny it to women and to make it more difficult to obtain is a travesty of justice. We should be seeking to make life easier, especially when one is in a difficult situation.

Outlawing abortion, which is the direction a bill like this is leading too, will not prevent abortions, it will only kill women. I cannot understand why those in power want women to die.

The administration also thinks that women should have more children. Adding restrictions to Mifepristone will have the opposite effect. Health care deserts, and detrimental medical laws enacted by the legislature that have no basis in reality, make a women think twice about bring new life into this society for both her safety and the safety of her children. Women are not baby factories. Bills like HB 324 make Ohio a hostile place to have a child and raise a family. Therefore, if you decide to enact HB 324 to restrict access to abortion, you will actually be having the opposite effect on life in Ohio. You are sending the message, that Ohio is against women and not a desirable place to live or raise a family.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this bill.

Regards,

Maxine Irvin

October 7, 2025