

Committees

Health
Medicaid



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HB 410 Opponent Testimony

Thank you Chair Gross, Vice Chair Barhorst, Ranking Member Baker and members of the House Medicaid Committee for allowing me to give opponent testimony on HB 410.

As an OB/GYN, I believe that our goal as a legislature should be to protect access to healthcare for all Ohioans. This bill will actively work against that goal. Planned Parenthood is the main entity that would be hurt by this measure, and 96% of the services that they provide are unrelated to abortion. These services include life saving preventative care like pap smears and breast cancer screenings. They also include access to low-cost contraception and STI testing. These are all things that keep Ohioans safe, and if they permanently lose access to Medicaid funding in Ohio, they will be forced to close. The Hyde amendment already restricts Medicaid funds being used for abortions so this additional legislation is unnecessary.

Because of this one-year restriction on Medicaid funds in HR 1, two Planned Parenthood locations in Ohio were forced to close.

If this prohibition is made permanent, we will lose access to more.

Evidence based medicine shows that the best way to reduce abortion is to provide easy access to low cost contraceptives. We should be focused on doing that as opposed to restricting access to care.

Ohioans have made themselves crystal clear in how they feel about access to abortion services. In 2023, 57% of our constituents voted to enshrine the right to reproductive freedom in our state's constitution. We should not be doing anything at the Statehouse that goes against this right. This bill is simply a back-door attempt at wiping out access to abortion care in the state. It does not matter what our constitution says on the subject if there aren't any accessible abortion providers. I believe that this bill is not only unconstitutional, but it also flies directly in the face of what Ohio voters want. We work for the people, and we should respect their wishes. Thank you Chair Gross, Vice Chair Barhorst, Ranking Member Baker and members of the House Medicaid Committee for your time. With that, I conclude my testimony and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.