



Center FOR Christian Virtue

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**To: Chairman Brenner
Vice-Chair Blessing
Ranking Member Ingram
Senate Education Committee**

**From: Ryan M. Folz
Legislative Liaison
Center for Christian Virtue**

Chairman Brenner, Vice-Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Ingram, and esteemed members of the Senate Education Committee, my name is Ryan Folz, and I am testifying on behalf of the Center for Christian Virtue, Ohio's largest Christian public policy organization. I am here today to support the passage of Senate Bill 310, which will ensure that students receive medically accurate and engaging instruction about human growth and development.

Most Ohio school districts currently incorporate human development into their health, biology or life sciences curriculum, but for some reason many schools do not include prenatal development. If we already acknowledge the value of teaching human development, why would we leave out the very first and most intriguing stages? While the topic can seem controversial in rooms like this, in the classroom it's a fun way to discuss the shared human experience of how we all came into this world.

A 2021 IPSOS Poll found that less than a quarter of Americans are well informed on the stages of fetal development ¹. Nearly half (47%) could only correctly identify one or none of the 5 stages presented. In other words, nearly half of Americans would FAIL such a human development test. The vast majority of adults apparently still haven't quite grasped when and how life begins.

Senate Bill 310 is needed and important for the well-rounded education of our young people. By giving districts the flexibility to decide how this instruction will

¹ <https://www.ipsos.com/en-us/news-polls/Americans-pregnancy-knowledge-and-abortion-2021>



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be integrated into similar curricula and by what method, this legislation will be a good thing for our students and a good thing for our state.

Thank you to Senator Johnson for sponsoring and bringing SB310 to committee. I respectfully encourage the committee's passage. Thank You.

The Center for Christian Virtue (CCV) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that endeavors to create an Ohio where God's blessings of life, family, and religious freedom are treasured, respected, and protected. www.ccv.org -- (513) 733-5775