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**Ohio Senate Testimony – March 24, 2026**  
**Regarding the Baby Olivia Act**  
**Testimony of Dr. William R. Lile, D.O., FACOG**

Good morning. My name is Dr. William Lile. I am board certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology and licensed to practice medicine in the state of Florida. Over the past 30 years, I have delivered more than 5,000 babies and have performed or interpreted over 10,000 fetal anatomy ultrasounds. I have served as an instructor for both the University of Florida and Florida State University OB/GYN residency programs. Additionally, I served as Chairman of the OB/GYN Department for two years and as Vice Chairman for two years at Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola, Florida.

The Baby Olivia Act has been introduced through the Education Committee. Education is one of the most important responsibilities entrusted to government, particularly in shaping the knowledge and understanding of our children. The textbooks used when I was in school 40 years ago are no longer in use, reflecting the continuous expansion of knowledge and technological advancement. At that time, the Macintosh computer was new, Microsoft Windows 1.0 had just been released, and music was primarily experienced on compact discs. Over the past four decades, information and technology have evolved dramatically.

Many advances in medicine have been made possible through the dedication of scientists. Drs. Bleil and Wassarman, for example, devoted 40 years of research to understanding the process of conception. Their work led to the development of three-dimensional modeling of the ZP3 receptor, located on the surface of the egg. This receptor binds with the head of the sperm, initiating the process of conception. Today, we understand both the structure and function of this receptor—acting as a “lock,” while the sperm functions as the corresponding “key”—triggering the beginning of human development.

Each of us shares a common history: a moment of conception and a moment of birth. Physicians and scientists, including MDs, PhDs, and DOs affiliated with Live Action, have utilized modern animation alongside established scientific knowledge to illustrate the developmental process from conception to delivery. Fetal development is an observable and repeatable sequence of changes occurring on an hourly and daily basis. Within just 10 weeks, development progresses from a single cell to approximately one billion cells. This is an extraordinary process.

The Baby Olivia video presents this development in a clear, day-by-day format. It is based on established scientific principles and accurately reflects the developmental timeline. One criticism of the video is its use of “conception age” rather than “gestational age.” However, in the study of embryology and fetal development, conception age is the standard reference point.

Gestational age is traditionally calculated from the first day of the last menstrual period (FDLMP), a method used for over a century due to the historical absence of ultrasound technology. However, ovulation—and therefore conception—occurs two weeks **after** this date. Using gestational age is analogous to starting the timer for an Olympic race before the athletes are still stretching and have not even reached the starting blocks. In contrast, conception age begins at the moment the race truly starts—when development begins. When using ‘conception age’; at one week the embryo is already implanting into the endometrial lining of the uterus of the mother. If ‘gestational age’ is used, at one week, the mother will not even ovulate an egg for another week! True science requires accuracy.

There has also been criticism that conception age is not clearly identified in the video. However, references such as “one week after conception,” “three weeks after conception,” and “six weeks after conception” are presented within the first minute of the video.

The Baby Olivia video is a valuable educational resource that enhances the scientific understanding of fetal development. It represents thousands of hours of research distilled into a concise, high-quality, three-minute presentation. Providing accurate, evidence-based information is essential in equipping individuals to make informed decisions.

In my experience, many individuals express opposition to the Baby Olivia video without having viewed it. When asked, most acknowledge they have not yet watched it. I respectfully encourage each of you to view the “Baby Olivia” video before casting your vote. I am confident that these three minutes will contribute meaningfully to your scientific understanding, and allow our students to be enlightened on the advances in science of the human body.

Sincerely,

Dr. William R. Lile, D.O., FACOG

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