



House Bill 135 Sponsor Testimony State Representative Dave Hall
House Community and Family Advancement Committee
March 24, 2015

Chairman Derickson, Vice Chair Ginter, Ranking Member Howse and members of the Community and Family Advancement Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony on HB 135, which will address to important issue of discrimination against Ohioans with Down syndrome.

I agree with my joint sponsor, Rep. LaTourette, stated so eloquently. It should not matter what someone's personal stance on abortion is in this situation; discriminating against a person because they have been diagnosed with a genetic condition is anti-American and morally wrong.

This bill seeks to right the wrong that has been so blatantly practiced in the State of Ohio and gives every person with the *potential* of a Down syndrome diagnosis the basic right to live. These pre-screenings are not 100% accurate, and babies who show positive results for Down syndrome do not always end up having the condition. Regardless of this inaccuracy, ending the life of a child that may or may not have the syndrome is wrong.

We owe it to these Ohioans to ensure them the chance to live their vibrant, happy, and fulfilled lives and to protect them from discrimination.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak to H.B. 135. I would be happy to take any questions at this time.

