



TO: House Community & Family Advancement Committee  
FROM: Gary Daniels, Chief Lobbyist, ACLU of Ohio  
DATE: June 2, 2015  
RE: House Bill 135

To Chairman Derickson, Vice Chair Ginter, Ranking Minority Member Howse and members of the House Community & Family Advancement Committee, my name is Gary Daniels, Chief Lobbyist for the American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio ("ACLU of Ohio") and I appreciate this opportunity to present opponent testimony on House Bill 135.

Like previous bills of this type aimed at essentially overturning past court decisions, this one suffers from the same problems as its predecessors. No court appears willing to uphold legislation such as HB 135, as it places extreme restrictions on a woman's ability to choose. By banning abortions before viability – contrary to the standard set by *Roe v. Wade* and more than 30 years of Supreme Court precedent – this bill raises serious legal concerns.

If this bill passes, women in Ohio will surely be aware of its ramifications. As a result, a woman seeking an abortion may choose to withhold from her doctor information about her reasons for terminating her pregnancy.

However, doctors worried about losing their licenses or getting sued may turn into overzealous investigators and patients will become suspects. A woman should not be afraid or unwilling to discuss medical care with her doctor. As proponents of this legislation have said, we want to create the best atmosphere for women and their families, but this legislation does the opposite.

The ACLU opposes discrimination in all forms and we work hard every day to create a more equitable state through efforts such as increasing access to voting, preventing attacks against housing discrimination and accessibility laws, and advocating for equal opportunities. This bill does not solve the serious concerns of those with a disability in our communities.

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Members of the committee, we must assess this bill for what we know it is – an attempt to take away the ability to make personal, private decisions and forcing a woman to make a decision that may not be right for her or her family.

House Bill 135 will not accomplish what its supporters hope it will. Instead of engaging in divisive political tactics let's work to ensure those with disabilities are treated not only with equality and dignity but also support them and their families through positive changes we know will enhance their lives.