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**Testimony in Support of HB294
House Community and Family Advancement Committee
October 13, 2015**

Chairman Derickson, Vice Chair Ginter, Ranking Member Howse and committee members:

Thank you for allowing me to testify before you today. I am here to support House Bill 294 in order to require that the Ohio Department of Health not distribute any state or federal funds for the performance or promotion of elective abortion, or to any facility that performs or promotes elective abortion.

While abortion may be legal, that doesn't make it right. Just as slavery and civil discrimination were once legal, I hope that in my life time we bring an end to the senseless legal killing of innocent, unborn human life. Until that time comes, we must take whatever legal means necessary to not give the financial support of our tax dollars to any facility that performs or promotes abortion, especially considering the fact that the Ohio Revised Code (ORC 9.041) states that it is the public policy of the state of Ohio to prefer childbirth over abortion.

While not specifically named in this legislation, the biggest provider of abortion in Ohio and throughout our country is Planned Parenthood. I have sat through many hearings on the state level, and have watched most of the congressional hearings investigating Planned Parenthood over the last months. The statement given by witnesses and those in support of Planned Parenthood over and over is that they do NOT use the federal tax dollars they receive for purposes of abortion, because of course,

that would be breaking the law! I'd like to know just how they keep this money separate. Does any of the tax dollars received help to pay the rent, property taxes, utility bills, salaries, maintenance or anything else in the same building where these abortions are performed?

Planned Parenthood also states that their main business is comprehensive health care. Their cleverly crafted annual report cannot hide the truth. Abortion is what drives their revenues. What they consider comprehensive health care is minimal in comparison to the comprehensive health care provided by the huge number alternatives in Ohio to Planned Parenthood's 28 locations.

I'd like to point out some of the supporting documentation I have included with my testimony.

- The first is a map of the alternatives to PP provided by Alliance Defending Freedom and the Charlotte Lozier Institute that shows only 280 of the federally funded alternatives currently available. This map shows less than half of what is actually available when you include in Ohio's community action agencies, free clinics and statewide hospitals. Ohio's community health centers alone serve FIVE TIMES the number of women who go to Planned Parenthood. Yet Planned Parenthood has a stranglehold on the tax dollars that should be going to these other locations which increase access to health care for thousands more women than Planned Parenthood can reach.
- The second is a chart put together by my organization that shows our tax dollars at work with Planned Parenthood. It clearly indicates, with information taken from Planned Parenthood's own annual reports that the more money it receives, the more abortions it performs. This is clear evidence of its abortion agenda. Between 2009 and 2013, while PP's tax revenue increased by 45.5%, the number of prenatal services it provided decreased by 53.8% (in Ohio, they offer NO pre-natal care. The ONLY service PP offers pregnant women in Ohio is an abortion), breast exams decreased by 41.3%, Pap tests

decreased by 58.1%, and cancer screenings decreased by 19.3%. This is an organization that clearly both promotes and performs abortions and should not receive our tax dollars.

- The third reference item is the 2014 investigative report from Live Action. This documentation is the culmination of a six year investigation exposing Planned Parenthood's involvement in the cover-up of child sexual abuse and sex trafficking, racism, deceptive and manipulative counseling, false advertising and fraud, sex selective abortion and infanticide.
- The last reference item is an investigative report by the legal firm of Alliance Defending Freedom which outlines how Planned Parenthood creates a customer base by promoting risky sexual behavior to children, enforcing abortion quotas to drive revenue, putting women at risk by failing to uphold safe health standards and more.

While the scope of this proposed legislation does not address these other allegations and information, this material should be seriously considered when deciding how our tax dollars should be distributed. Any organization that promotes itself as a provider of comprehensive women's health care when it actually focuses on abortion should not receive our tax dollars.

Ohio's other abortion facilities do not get a pass on this either. Ohio law requires ambulatory surgical facilities to obey stringent health and safety standards and to have their license renewed yearly by the Ohio Department of Health. However, with the exception of a newly opened abortion clinic in Cuyahoga Falls, not ONE surgical abortion facility in Ohio has a current license. Some have been expired since 2012. The Cleveland Women's Medical Group in Shaker Heights doesn't even HAVE a license yet according to their website, they perform abortion up to 19.6 weeks. We expect the Ohio Department of Health to be responsible for the distribution of tax dollars to some of these groups that say they

provide women's health care, yet they don't enforce these facilities to operate according to the standards requires by Ohio law.

House Bill 294 will prevent the Ohio Department of Health from distributing tax dollars to any of Ohio's abortion facilities because their number one activity is the promotion and performance of a procedure which deliberately ends the life of a human being. This is contrary to Ohio's public policy. We need to stop funding any organization that performs abortion. They can look for their own funding, just like my organization does. We do not receive a dime of tax money. We are 100% donor funded, and provide credible proof of the work that we do to be good stewards of the money we receive. It's about time that organizations that focus on abortion, which is NOT healthcare, to search for their own funding. There are many, many credible and worth alternatives that can provide free or low-cost health care to women that do not perform abortions.