



Kambra Malone
Proponent testimony
House Bill 419
House Health & Aging Committee
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Thank you, Chairwoman Gonzales, Vice
Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio

and members of the House Health and Aging Committee for allowing me to provide testimony today on behalf of House Bill 419. My name is Kambra Malone and I serve as the Executive Director for Back in His Arms Again, a non-profit founded here in Columbus. I support the intent of House Bill 419, and I would like to take this opportunity to explain how it could be possible to provide for the burial or cremation of aborted babies.

We work to serve families all across the United States who experience the loss of a child. I'd like to tell you our story of what we do and how we came about as an organization.

Believing that every life is precious and deserving of respect, *Back In His Arms Again* honors life from conception until death. We are a faith based organization that serves people of all ethnicities, backgrounds and life styles.

We are a charitable organization of collaborative resources providing educational resources, care, guidance and financial services for families in need who are experiencing the loss of a child.

My husband and I were surprised by the absence of any resources provided to us at the time of the unexpected loss of our son. We are speaking from our experience, as we learned how to deal with his loss. We felt the call to provide these resources to other parents. It is our sincere hope that Back In His Arms Again will help and encourage all families of loss.

In 2005 we lost our first child. We wanted to have the remains buried in a dignified and respectful manor. The hospital that we were at didn't have any protocol in place. Therefore, we fought all day only to go home with our baby in a biohazard bag, inside a "patient's personal belongings bag". When I woke up from surgery I was terribly worried about WHERE our baby was. The words my husband spoke will never get easier "I'm sorry Kambra, he is in the trunk of our car." He was kept in a cooler in our basement until we could arrange a burial five days later.

Since 2010 we have established relationships and proper protocol with area hospitals and physicians. We collaborated with the Catholic Cemeteries of Columbus to establish The Garden of the Holy Innocents, a burial ground for all babies under 20 weeks and any baby cremated over 20 weeks. It is our mission to provide each life with a dignified and respectful burial. The garden was dedicated April 12, 2015. To date we have 557 babies that have received the burial all life deserves.

I'm here to share this today to provide hope. This legislation is not a futile effort about regulation, it is legislation to promote the dignity of human life. And I am here to say that it is possible to do so for unborn babies who are lost because of abortion. We are doing the work now, and would be happy to help any family in need of our services.

All burial services for miscarriages past 20 weeks gestation must enlist the services of a funeral director. The Chaplain's Office at any hospital will work closely with families in preparing such burials by contacting a funeral director. The family can then contact their parish and the cemetery of choice for burial arrangements.

Any miscarriage prior to 20 weeks gestation can involve a funeral director if the family wishes to do so. However, the family may wish to make the arrangements themselves without the aide of a funeral director. When choosing the non-funeral director option, the family may elect either themselves or the Catholic Cemeteries of Columbus representative to pick up the infant from the hospital. When choosing the cemetery representative as the designated pick up party, the family must state this designation in writing to the hospital, each hospital will have a standard release form. The family will notify the cemetery of their designation and provide the cemetery with a

contact person and phone number at the hospital. The cemetery will coordinate the pick up time with the Catholic Cemeteries of Columbus. The Catholic Cemeteries of Columbus have four cemeteries in the Central Ohio and The Garden of the Holy Innocents is located at Resurrection Cemetery. The garden isn't only a burial ground for fetal remains but also provides a place to go and reflect for mothers who have aborted their child. Included in the garden, the mother may choose to have a paver engraved with her baby's name. This service is available to all of our families whether they actually have remains there or not. Mothers and fathers of current loss or past loss/abortion find this very healing. Spiritually, we offer quarterly memorial services at resurrection cemetery for The Garden of the Holy Innocents.

When we first began Back In His Arms Again in 2005 we served 5-10 families per month. In December 2015 we had 126 families in Ohio and throughout the nation calling on us for assistance.

We truly believe that every human life is deserving of respect and honor in death, and we know it is possible to provide this to even the smallest humans. I fully support House Bill 419 and the requirement to ensure this honor is bestowed upon even those babies who are lost to abortion.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak in favor of House Bill 419. I'm happy to take any questions you may have.