



**Testimony of Jaime Miracle,  
Deputy Director for NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio,  
to the Health and Aging Committee  
Opposing House Bill 419  
April 13, 2016**

Chairwoman Gonzales, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the Health and Aging committee, my name is Jaime Miracle. I am the Deputy Director for NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio. I am here to speak in opposition to HB 419 on behalf of our activists and members across Ohio.

Because this bill is very similar to H.B. 417 many of the concerns I expressed previously about that bill also apply to H.B. 419. The fact that burial permits and fetal death certificates are public records concern us about H.B. 419, as does the fact that this bill gives unilateral authority for rule making and rule enforcement to the Ohio Department of Health. The AP has done extensive reporting which showed how ODH, at the behest of Governor Kasich, routinely treats abortion clinics completely differently than other ambulatory surgical facilities, when by law they should all be treated the same way, since they are all regulated under the same general guidelines. Granting ODH additional unilateral powers to both create and enforce rules however they may choose is exceedingly troubling under the current regulatory environment.

Beyond the burden imposed by this differential treatment, abortion clinics must provide care in a hostile environment completely different than other medical providers, because of the constant, unrelenting harassment their patients, doctors, and staff experience from protestors. Recently, protestors with the Columbus-based extremist group Created Equal have branched out, finding new targets for their “Killers Among Us” campaign<sup>1</sup>. They hope to force every abortion clinic to close by harassing the companies and suppliers that work with them until they stop contracting with these health care providers. On the April 1<sup>st</sup> episode of his radio show, Created Equal’s director Mark Harrington bragged that their harassment of the Stericycle CEO had caused the man to sit in his driveway in fear, rather than go into his house or leave for work<sup>2</sup>.

It may not be the intention of the bill’s sponsors to give the bullies at Created Equal new targets to intimidate, but that is exactly what will happen. By requiring that any medical waste disposal company, like Stericycle, that contracts with abortion providers be licensed by the Ohio Department of Health, you will be releasing the names and information of who contracts with these clinics, and giving the green light to Created Equal to target them in their next campaign. You may think this far fetched, but I can assure you that Created Equal’s goal is to harass every abortion clinic—and everyone who has a relationship or contract with them-- until they have shuttered every last one.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://killersamongus.org/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://createdequal.podbean.com/>

We know their tactics, because they are the same ones they already use to identify the doctors that sign variance agreements with clinics that can't obtain transfer agreements under ODH's regulations. Since clinics must provide the names of their back up doctors in their ODH applications, Created Equal and other extremist groups simply issue public records requests to learn which doctors have agreed to provide emergency care in the event of a complication. They then target them for intimidation at their home, their office, and their medical office<sup>3</sup>. Created Equal drives trucks around doctors' neighborhoods accusing them of being "Killers Amongst Us." They send grotesque postcards to all their neighbors with that tagline, and set up outside of their office to harass them and their patients. In one case, they even drove their "Killers" truck behind the teenage daughter of a physician as she set out for her afternoon run around her neighborhood.

In this climate of intimidation and harassment, it is likely that companies will choose not to apply for licenses to service abortion clinics, for fear they'll be next. This leads to my most important point today. H.B. 419 may look like the lesser of two bad bills. It still allows for incineration; it doesn't force women to sign unnecessary and shaming paperwork; it supposedly gives clinics options. But at its core, this bill is no different than H.B. 417. It has the same privacy concerns, because cremation and burial will be the only options, and the required certificates will contain personal information about women that could be accessed. Moreover, it allows the highly politicized Ohio Department of Health to craft and enforce the regulations that abortion clinics will be forced to follow. As I've shown, the ODH consistently treats abortion clinics in a totally different way than other medical facilities that ostensibly fall under the same rules and regulations.

H.B. 419 is just the next in the very long line of medically unnecessary abortion clinic regulations that I have testified against in my more than 10 years at NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio. It is another thinly veiled effort at shutting down abortion providers in order to score points with a political base.

Thank you for your time today. Attached to my testimony are two examples of the campaigns I described in my testimony today. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.createdequal.org/resources/faqs/15-apologetics/138>

Picture posted by Created Equal on Social Media of postcard delivery in the neighborhood of Stericycle CEO.



Example of postcards sent to neighbors of Dayton area doctors

**#KILLERSAMONGUS**

**ALAN MARCO MD SUPPORTS BABY KILLING**

Dr. Marco resides in our neighborhood:  
569 Calumet Pl, Beavercreek OH 45434

Wright State Physicians  
CEO Dr. Alan Marco

**15 Week Aborted Baby**

Take action! Contact

1. Wright State University President David Hopkins (937-775-2312).
2. Wright State University Physicians Group (937-245-7100).

Demand they stop enabling late-term abortionist Martin Haskell to kill babies.

CreatedEqual.org/Wright-State | KillersAmongUs.org

CREATED EQUAL  
PO BOX 360502  
COLUMBUS OH 43236

PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
2EVEYRDOOR

LOCAL  
POSTAL CUSTOMER

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**#KILLERSAMONGUS**

A group of physicians at Wright State University is enabling infamous late-term abortionist and partial-birth abortion pioneer Martin Haskell to keep his abortion facility in Dayton open and operating.

Ohio law requires all ambulatory surgical facilities to have a written transfer agreement with a nearby hospital. Dayton hospitals refuse to give Haskell such an agreement. However, Haskell has found a way to skirt this law through a contract with the Wright State Physicians group.

As a tax-funded university, Wright State should not allow doctors at its medical school to support abortionists.

Created Equal condemns all abortion-related violence.