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Government Oversight and Reform
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Chairman Coley, Vice-chair Seitz, ranking member Yuko, and distinguished members of the Government Oversight and Reform committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today on Senate Bill 214. My name is Stephanie Ranade Krider and I am the Executive Director of Ohio Right to Life. On behalf of Ohio Right to Life and our statewide membership and affiliates, I am here today to speak on the issue of taxpayer funding for abortion providers.

Oftentimes when I address this issue with legislators, confusion arises over the legality of taxpayer funding for abortions. Pro-choice members might say that the Hyde Amendment already prohibits taxpayer funding for abortion, and it is therefore a non-issue.

I would like to clarify this misunderstanding. According to National Right to Life, “The Hyde amendment only covers funds appropriated through the annual Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations bills. Taxpayer funds made available through other bills are not covered by Hyde.” In short, the Hyde Amendment’s scope is limited.

This becomes increasingly clear as we consider the mass government funding that is channeled to Planned Parenthood every year. As I say this, I appreciate that some will be tempted to tune me out. Please bear with me.

Notice that Ohio Right to Life has never called for the de-funding of any federally qualified health care provider that offers STD testing, cancer screenings, or birth control. In fact, in 2012 and 2013 we advocated *for* the funding of these centers. Frequently, I encounter the perception that Planned Parenthood is the only health care provider for disadvantaged women. This is far from true. With me, I’ve brought a map of nearly 300 places that provide free to low-cost health

care for women across our state. As you can see, these health centers are often located in rural areas far from Planned Parenthood's reach. To claim that Planned Parenthood is a woman's only option for health care is to severely limit her choices to a narrow set of services and advance the political and financial interests of Planned Parenthood alone.

Over the span of 40 years, Planned Parenthood's abortion services have grown to consume a bigger and bigger market share. It may or may not surprise some people that 50 years ago, Planned Parenthood did not perform abortions. In fact, a 1963 Planned Parenthood pamphlet said, "An abortion kills the life of the baby after it has begun." When Planned Parenthood started doing abortions in 1973, their business represented only about 0.6% (a total of 5,000) of the abortions performed in the U.S. In 2013, Planned Parenthood performed 327,653 abortions—1 in 4 abortions. In the same year, 41 percent (\$528 million) of Planned Parenthood's revenue came from taxpayer subsidies.

Decades ago, it may have been true that Planned Parenthood was not an abortion business. Today, we simply cannot say that.

Still, we are told that abortions make up a small percentage of what Planned Parenthood does. But if these services are so negligible, why doesn't Planned Parenthood simply stop doing abortions in order to keep taxpayer funding for their non-lethal services? If we look at the financial side of the abortion industry, I believe the answer is fairly simple: Abortion is profitable. Planned Parenthood charges upwards of \$1,500 for a first trimester abortion. Even if we used a modest average of \$500 per abortion, Planned Parenthood would have made over \$163 million on aborted babies in 2013.

In July, the Center for Medical Progress launched the first in a series of videos showing Planned Parenthood negotiating dollar figures for the parts of aborted babies: Hearts, livers, lungs, and calvarium.

Consider what I just said, absent of politics: The tiny hearts, livers, lungs, and heads of first and second trimester aborted babies.

How horrific that anyone should ever have to utter these words in the Statehouse of Ohio.

In the first video released by the Center for Medical Progress, Planned Parenthood's Director of Medical Services is shown saying that in order to get certain organs, she can change her method of abortion so she is "crushing here or crushing there," or "knows to crush above or crush below." Just two days later, Cecile Richards apologized for the tone of that doctor.

Her apology raises serious questions, not just about whether Planned Parenthood is involved in trading fetal parts, but about abortion generally.

If abortion is a morally relative decision as we've repeatedly been told, why should the tone with which it is discussed matter? Richards' half apology is a head nod to the fact that most Americans' stomachs are turning, not because of her corporation's tone but because of her corporation's practice. To quote Kristen Powers, a pro-life Democratic strategist writing in USA Today, "the problem is not one of tone, it's the crushing."

National Right to Life says, "The Supreme Court has held that the alleged constitutional 'right' to an abortion 'implies no limitation on the authority of a State to make a value judgment favoring childbirth over abortion, and to implement that judgment by the allocation of public funds.'" Abortion funding bans are constitutional.

Our human decency demands that we stop the crushing. Some will say that it's not our place—that the legislature cannot insert itself into the doctor's office. Yet de-funding Planned Parenthood would achieve precisely the opposite result: It would extract the government and pro-lifers like myself from the abortion office.

It is the public policy of the state of Ohio to prefer childbirth over abortion. Ohio Right to Life asks that the State of Ohio honor this policy and leave the abortion business once and for all.