

Maddison Buschur

Interested Party Testimony for SB 214

Before the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee

October 21, 2015

Chairman Coley, Vice Chair Seitz, Ranking Member Yuko, and members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to be before you speaking in regards to Senate Bill 214.

I have had no direct experience myself with an unplanned pregnancy, abortion, or utilizing the services of offices or organizations that provide abortions. I'm involved here today simply because I believe in defending those who have been victimized by the abortion industry.

I do not believe that within 5 – 10 minutes I am going to change your mind as to whether or not a child/ fetus in the womb deserves a right to life; that's not what this bill is directly determining. I instead will be focusing on the immorality of organizations that use taxpayer dollars to decide for Americans that these fetuses do not deserve the right to life.

I will make the assumption that you have heard many arguments in regards to the reasons pregnant women and their unborn children deserve better than clinics and doctors that provide abortion, so I would like to turn the focus on another group.

Over the past several months, I have had the opportunity to work with a pro-life non-profit that serves a unique population; former abortion clinic workers.

Through financial, emotional, legal, career and spiritual help, And Then There Were None helps former clinic workers transition into finding healing and new life-affirming work.

I do not have time today to do more than summarize their experiences, but I encourage you to go to abortionworker.com to read the testimonies of some of our clients who have chosen to speak out.

These are individuals who now realize they were lied to by upper management in the abortion industry. They are originally told that they are helping women, then find themselves sliding down a slippery slope into lying to these women. They assist in operations without having the proper medical training. They are taught how to "follow the rules" to the absolute minimum in regards to providing parenting and adoption options, while coercing a woman into choosing abortion so they can meet the quota imposed upon them. They manipulate numbers for

reports, so they don't technically break the law or "look as bad". They look the other way at the mistreatment of women during their five minutes on the abortion table, and then advocate that the mothers, fathers and children are better off because of it. They now admit that they repeatedly lied, because they had been lied to. These workers are exploited, just like the individuals who walk through those doors and pay to be exploited themselves.

Of course, this does not speak to the experience of *every* worker that comes to And Then There Were None; but it is an unfortunate consensus that comes up again and again.

If this wasn't the case, the ministry would not have served 183 former clinic workers within three years of being founded.

And if this industry inflicts damage upon its own employees, within its own walls, how can we keep questioning whether or not that damage extends to our society?

For this reason and the many reasons that have been shared before, legislation must be passed to stop funding to these organizations.

However, I do not believe that this bill achieves that to the full extent necessary.

SB 214 is written to comply with section 9.04 of the Ohio Revised Code regarding state funds for nontherapeutic abortion benefits; no additional exceptions are included within its language. However, being compliant with the language is a huge exception in itself. If I could change this bill, I would remove the "nontherapeutic" adjective. While I understand that a bill serves no purpose if not compliant with the constitution, I encourage you to make a change first in the Ohio Revised Code, before passing legislation that would allow the public to believe we got the job done.

The majority of therapeutic abortions are performed on victims of rape and incest—approximately 1%. As a pro-lifer, it is tempting to support legislation that would make a difference for the majority; but I cannot in good conscience push forward legislation that leaves behind the most vulnerable of all. I cannot tell pro-choice individuals that it is wrong for them to place the value of one life above another, yet do the same myself. If we want to fight for a right to life, we need to fight for the rights of *all* lives.

Chairman Coley, Vice Chair Seitz, Ranking Member Yuko, and members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee, thank you again for your time, and I would be happy to answer questions you may have.