

CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF OHIO

October 21, 2015

Testimony in Support of SB 214: Prohibiting state/federal funds from being used for nontherapeutic abortions

Chairman Coley, vice chairman Seitz, ranking member Yuko and members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee, my name is Jim Tobin. I am an Associate Director with the Catholic Conference of Ohio. I testify today in support of SB 214. The Ohio Catholic Bishops have consistently opposed taxpayer funding of abortions. We believe redirecting public funds to organizations that do not provide or encourage abortions is an appropriate measure and promotes Ohio's already enacted preference for childbirth.

The Catholic Church's teaching concerning abortion is well known. We hold that every child, at every moment of existence, deserves love and the protection of the law. We do not believe any person or government has the right to take the life of an innocent human being, and we hold that the real problems that lead women to consider abortion should be addressed with solutions that support both mother and child.

At the national level, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops issued a letter encouraging congress to pass similar legislation. In this letter Cardinal O'Malley wrote:

"It has long been troubling to many Americans that the nation's largest abortion network [Planned Parenthood], performing over a third of all abortions, receives over half a billion taxpayer dollars a year. This concern has rightly grown in recent years.

The most recent revelations about Planned Parenthood's willingness to traffic in fetal tissue from abortions, and to alter abortion methods not for any reason related to women's health but to obtain more "intact" organs, is the latest demonstration of a callousness toward women and their unborn children that is shocking to many Americans.

The Catholic Church comes to this issue from a perspective rooted in experience. Catholic charitable agencies and pregnancy help centers have helped countless pregnant women find life-affirming alternatives to abortion. Our hospitals and other health facilities are second to none in providing quality health care for women."

Thank you for this opportunity.