

Written Testimony  
**Melanie Miller- Executive Director, Ashland Care Center, Inc.**  
Defund Planned Parenthood

Good morning! It is a privilege for me to be here today, and speak on behalf of those without a voice.

My name is Melanie Miller and I serve as the Executive Director of the Ashland Care Center located at 119 Sloan Ave in Ashland, Ohio. We are the local pregnancy crisis center in the community serving men and women since 1981 who find themselves facing an unexpected pregnancy. The mission of Ashland Care Center is to share Christ and save lives by being a Christ-centered ministry offering a network of resources and education that equip each client to make choices consistent with God's gift of life.

I stand here today as a voice for the voiceless. To remind you that every life has *priceless value*. Life is precious and begins at conception as God's Word teaches us...

Psalm 139: 13 says, ***"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made..."***

God's Word also teaches in John 10:10 that, ***"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; but I have come so that they may have life, and may have it abundantly."***

Since 1973, there have been a total of 57.5 million abortions due to the consequences of Roe vs. Wade. Planned Parenthood is like a thief or robber who comes to *steal* hope, *kill* innocent lives, and *destroy* futures through lies and deception.

Have you ever met a man or woman who had an abortion and said "this was the best decision I've made?" The answer is no! Thousands of women and men have shared their stories of regret, shame, devastation and emptiness after dealing with the decision of abortion. Many women are physically not able to get pregnant or carry a child again due to having an abortion. That decision haunts many people today, and will never leave until they receive healing that only Christ can give.

Over 75% of the men & women who walk through the doors of the Ashland Care Center are abortion-minded/vulnerable. They are overwhelmed, have no support, lost all hope and believe they have no other option. However, they are greeted with unconditional love, hope and truth through God's word. We assure them there are alternative paths to take to *give life and they may have it abundantly*.



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Ashland Care Center is a home for true choice. We offer information on all options and provide assistance and support for all life-affirming choices, whether single-parenting, co-parenting, marriage or adoption. And for those who have suffered an abortion, we offer healing.

Those facing an unplanned pregnancy need to know about us. They need to know what we are able to offer. They need to know that we care about all of them – mom, dad and baby and that we will be by their side for the long haul.

*Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you, not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

We are making a difference! Did you know?

- There are over 2,500 Pregnancy Help Centers in the U.S., like the Ashland Care Center
- Every 4 minutes, 1 baby is saved from abortion

Senators will you help us choose life? You can help us continue to decrease the numbers of abortion in our state by defunding Planned Parenthood. Say no to Planned Parenthood and say yes to God's gift of life. Will you help us make a difference? Will you stand for truth? Will you protect the gift of life?

Thank you for your time.