

*Dr. Joan A. Lederer MD
1819 Cadwell Ave.
Cleveland Heights Ohio 44119
(216) 932-4335*

Good morning Chairman Manning, Vice Chair Rezabek, Ranking Member Celebrezze and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee

My name is Dr Joan Lederer I am board certified in both adult and child and adolescent psychiatry and have practiced for more than thirty years. I am here today to testify against senate bill 145.

A little about myself. I remember crystal clearly my first day as a medical student. I swore to uphold the Hypocratic Oath and to “first do no harm”. I was awe struck and full of idealism. I believe I have held onto this idealism.

Senate bill 145 goes against all my values as a physician. It imposes a more traumatic, both physically and emotionally, procedure on women for no proven reason. It also, I believe, hampers obstetrician gynecologists from acting quickly when a patient’s life is in danger because now they have the risk of becoming felons.

As a psychiatrist I have valued the patient physician relationship. This relationship involves collaboration and my input as someone who is trained and knowledgeable. It also requires that I sit with the individual in my office without fears of being adjudicated. I always want to give the best informed care. Laws that generalize to all women are not the way to treat the individual patient. Medicine is an art as well as a science. The art is in knowing and understanding your individual patient. This law is analogous to a law stating that all women must have penicillin and my patient is allergic to penicillin.

When reviewing what has been written about the fiscal impact of this law, I have not seen mention the significant difference in medical expense for a 30 minute procedure that does not have to be done in a hospital vs. a two day procedure that involves much higher risks of infection, retained placenta and hemorrhage. The use of opiates with all their inherent risks is clearly increased in induced second trimester abortions with or without complications.

I respectfully submit that having a second trimester abortion is not ideal but lets take care of the women of Ohio and allow them to work collaboratively with their caregivers so that all will be protected.

Thank you