

**Emmarsyn T. Mysko**

**Ohio Senate Bill 145**

**Dismemberment Abortion Ban**

**Senate Judiciary Committee**

**June 20, 2017**

Members of the committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to share with you today. My name is Emmarsyn Mysko, and I'm here today representing Mercer County Right to Life.

I first saw the image of an abortion victim when I was 13 years old. The fetus was 15 weeks old and had been ripped apart by a D&E abortion. I was immediately disgusted by the gruesome, inhumane treatment of a living human being. At the time, I could not have cared less about abortion, but when I saw that image, intense feelings of injustice struck me. I'm now 19 years old. It has been 6 years and I still can't forget that image, but now I'm much more convicted to fight against the injustice that happened to that innocent child.

Let's be clear on what a dilation and evacuation abortion is. The woman's cervix is forced open and using steel instruments, the abortionist reaches in with forceps, grabs a piece of the living fetus, then clamps, twists, and pulls the child apart piece by piece. Clamp. Twist. Pull. Repeat. Our nation would be in an uproar if we treated animals in this way, and justifiably so. However, due to the Humane Slaughter Act of 1958, we don't need to worry about that. The Humane Slaughter Act is a federal law meant to limit suffering of animals prior to slaughter. It requires that an animal must be completely sedated and insensible to pain before death. In the law's text, Statute 1902 (a) reads "in the case of cattle, calves, horses, mules, sheep, swine, and other livestock, all animals are rendered insensible to pain by a single blow or gunshot or an electrical, chemical, or other means that is rapid and effective, before being shackled, hoisted, thrown, cast, or cut." We protect animals from being dismembered and butchered alive- why do we not grant that same legal protection to members of our own species?

Decreasing human suffering as much as possible should not be a partisan issue. According to the ODH, 3,000 of our state's children in their most innocent, defenseless stages of life were brutally decapitated, dismembered, and disemboweled through D&E abortions. Most, if not all of those children could feel the excruciating pain of being crushed and ripped limb from limb. The preborn child would feel just as much pain as a grown adult would upon being ripped apart.

If we can't prevent the fetus' demise, we should at least fight to make their death as painless and humane as possible, which is what this bill would do. SB 145 does not ban abortions, it just regulates the use of a certain method, which follows the precedent set by the U.S. Supreme Court ruling on the Partial- Birth Abortion Ban. It is not necessary for the fetus to still be living

prior to dismemberment. These new protections under SB 145 would not add any substantial burden to the mother procuring the abortion. Administering a feticide prior to a D&E, or using one of the five alternative second trimester abortion methods would not compromise the safety of the mother.

If we can prevent the preborn from feeling the intense pain of being brutally decapitated, dismembered, and disemboweled in one of the most inhumane ways possible, we should seek to do that by any means possible. As Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy said in reference to the Partial Birth Abortion Ban, the state has at least some responsibility towards unborn children. Members of the committee, I urge you, please use your position today to take some of that responsibility and diminish the inhumane treatment of the youngest, most innocent, and most vulnerable members of our society.

Respectfully,

Emmarsyn T. Mysko

Mercer County Right to Life