

Senate Bill 145  
Proponent Testimony  
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Right to Life Action Coalition of Ohio  
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Chairman Bacon, vice chairman Dolan, ranking member Thomas and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today on behalf of the member organizations of the Right To Life Action Coalition of Ohio in support of the passage of Senate Bill 145.

Our coalition is comprised of numerous pro-life organizations, from Ohio's oldest Right to Life organization, Cincinnati Right to Life, to the largest of Ohio's right to life organizations in Toledo, Dayton, Cleveland, and county chapters throughout Ohio, life-affirming pregnancy care centers, and churches and civic organizations. We all share a common set of values: that the unborn child is a human person, like each and every one of us here today, worthy of dignity, respect and protection of law, and that to refuse that protection to any person due to their age or stage of development is unjust.

This is why we support passage of the legislation brought by Senators Huffman and Wilson, that would recognize the need to prohibit and penalize the inhumane and unjust practice of the dilation and extraction, or D&E, method of abortion. Every abortion method is equally deserving of such proscription; however, this bill focuses on this second trimester (between 13 and 24 week of gestation) act that has been very clearly described previously by others, including medical professional, showing the cruel, violent and callous nature of the deed.

As has been noted, a legitimate medical emergency regarding the life or substantial and irreversible damage to a major bodily function of the pregnant woman which either necessitates the use of, or has the D&E procedure as the safest option, for addressing that health concern is still allowed under the provisions of SB 145. But, in reality, the use of such a procedure actually increases the chances of adverse outcomes for the pregnant woman, including death.

Ohio's laws have stated a clear preference, as befits a civil society, of preferring live childbirth over abortion, and our laws in part reflect that preference. Ohio needs to go further, and intercede to keep this barbaric and inhumane practice from continuing in our state. It is shameful to note that the Ohio Department of Health noted 3,000 of these gruesome procedures took place in 2015, the latest year we have records publicly available.

This measure may or may not actually protect the future 3,000 or more annually from being killed in the womb, as the abortion industry will undoubtedly find ways around this prohibition if they are unsuccessful in challenging the act in court should it be adopted by this state. That should not deter this committee, or this Assembly, from standing up for the humanity and dignity of these unborn Ohio citizens.

This state, indeed this nation, has already prohibited the practice of an intact D&E, or partial-birth abortion on a living unborn child. The only real differences between that action, and the one that is the subject of SB 145, is the location of the child when it is killed (either in the womb, or in the birth canal partially delivered), and the state of the baby's body upon completion of the act (whether intact, or in pieces). It is time that Ohio take the only logical step and that is to prohibit this act.

Thank you for your kind attention to this testimony. We look forward to the passage of this legislation.