

Beth Powder
Senate Bill 23 – Six-Week Abortion Ban
Opponent Testimony
Ohio Senate Health, Human Services, and Medicaid Committee
February 26, 2019

Chairman Burke, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio, and Members of the Ohio Senate Health, Human Services, and Medicaid Committee,

My name is Beth Powder. I am going to share with you my abortion story and reason for opposition to Senate Bill 23.

When I was 33, my life revolved around work. My job had me working over 12 hours a day, 6 days a week. I'd made the conscious choice no to have a partner. And while I wanted children, I was concerned I wouldn't be able to have them. Aside from being one of many people in the insurance gap, I had a physical condition that caused me to grow large debilitating fibroids in my uterus.

I didn't have any insurance because I made too much for Medicaid and couldn't afford the plans available to me at that time. So when I became pregnant at the end of the summer in 2012, I didn't actually get to exercise my choice. I had been using birth control. I took the morning after pill. And I told the person I slept with to use a condom. He pretended to open a condom packet and mimed putting one on. He took what he wanted the way he wanted it, without my consent. And I got pregnant.

I can't be certain, but I feel strongly that if I hadn't had an abortion I would have miscarried that baby. I had no prenatal care, no postnatal care, and could never have afford to pay the \$20k to \$30k it would have cost to give birth. I've had 3 miscarriages. My womb used to fill up with fibroid tumors before I ultimately had to have an emergency hysterectomy. In 2014, I was diagnosed in an ER with over 22 baseball-sized fibroids in my womb. To attempt to carry a baby with the severe form of this condition that I have means serious health complications for me and likely means a miscarriage.

My miscarriages:
Age 20, 3 ½ months
Age 34, 2 ½ months
Age 35, 7 weeks

My abortion was simply 2 pills and it hurt less than some of my ovulation pain. I can't have kids and I desperately wanted kids. I wouldn't take back my abortion if you gave me a baby. I had a pact with myself that if I ever got pregnant I would keep it. And then I did. If I'd stayed pregnant, either I could have died in a county hospital or I'd have lost my baby.

I strongly urge you to vote NO on Senate Bill 23.

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony. I am happy to answer any questions you have.

Sincerely,
Beth Powder, 39,
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