

**Donna Shimko**  
**Opponent Testimony**  
**Senate Bill 23**  
**Ohio Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee**  
**Wednesday, February 26, 2019**

Chairman Burke, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio and Members of the Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee, thank you allowing me to testify. My name is Donna Shimko and I strongly oppose Senate Bill 23.

ALL women have the legal, moral, basic, human right to choose whether or not and when to have a child.

Regardless of your own personal beliefs, I implore you to put yourself into the place of a young Ohio woman who finds herself with an unplanned pregnancy. For any one of a dozen reasons, she cannot have a child at this time in her life.

Envision yourself as that young pregnant woman - you need ALL options available to you: will you have and keep the child? Will you give it up for adoption? OR will you have a SAFE and LEGAL abortion?

You have only discovered that you are pregnant at eight weeks – so if the six-week abortion ban becomes law, the choice of abortion would be denied you. This lack of choice is dangerous – it limits and denies health care options, and gives UNDUE POWER to people who are not involved in a pregnant person's life.

Reproductive rights and reproductive justice must be protected by and for ALL Ohio citizens. Taking away those rights is oppressive and a severe injustice.

I beseech you, to use your empathy, your wisdom, and belief in justice under the law – VOTE AGAINST SB23 – NO SIX-WEEK ABORTION BAN FOR OHIO WOMEN.

Thank you.

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