

Dr. Laura Ann Weaver
Senate Bill 23 – Six-Week Abortion Ban
Opponent Testimony
Ohio Senate Health, Human Services, and Medicaid Committee
February 26, 2019

Good morning Chairman Burke, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio and all members of the Committee and thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify about the legislation, Senate Bill 23, before you and the public eye.

I am Dr. Laura Ann Weaver and my hesitancy to testify is directly related to the personal, not theoretical or hypothetical, history I am about to give you. I led a full life, the first 64 years of which was that of a male and, twenty of those years, married. It is concerning this time frame about which I speak.

In the third year of my marriage, my wife became pregnant, an act that both my wife and I sought. That pregnancy had the adverse result of bring on my wife's psychosis. She fantasied that the future infant she was bearing was, in her words, "... a monster" and that she needed to terminate the pregnancy. I objected.

When she threatened in graphic terms that she will jump from the window of our 18th floor apartment, we went to a psychiatrist who told me that she was suicidal, there was nothing to be done, and she must have an abortion. My wife was ten weeks pregnant when she terminated her pregnancy and quickly recovered.

I take my vows seriously and I swore oaths only a limited number of times, ... to be faithful to my religious believes on the occasion of my 13th birthday, ... to honorably serve my country when I enlisted in the Air Force, ... and "for better or worse and in sickness and health" when I married. In her sickness, I needed to care for my wife. I did and my wife and I remained married for sixteen more years until her passing away in 1999.

Had a six-week abortion limitation been imposed, my wife would have died sixteen years before her time. She knew what was best for her at the time. I did not. And I dare say that neither do you. Had the law before you been in place, my wife would have died sooner than later. Do not believe that women take the decision of termination of pregnancy frivolously. These decisions are best left to the woman and, if she is to be penalized for whatever moral imposition is demanded, that is left to Almighty God, not to the legislative body of Ohio.

I urge you to vote not on Senate Bill 23, the dangerous six-week abortion ban.

Thank you.