

Chairman Burke, Vice Chairman Huffman, Ranking member Antonio and members of the committee – thank you for allowing me to testify in opposition of SB 260.

My name is Jessica Cunningham and I live in Cincinnati, Ohio. As a mother of two daughters and a resident of Ohio, I find our lawmakers' relentless attacks on reproductive healthcare deeply troubling. We know these anti-abortion legislations have nothing to do with the safety of patients and everything to do with trying to control our bodies. Within my community, clinics are being shut down and patients are being left without options. Ohio's most vulnerable are losing access to affordable birth control and reproductive healthcare. Telemedicine allows those without a nearby clinic or transportation an opportunity to speak with a doctor.

From previous testimony, we know how easy it is for people to find the abortion pill online. With only a few clicks they can have it delivered to their home. Wouldn't we want to make it easier for patients to access information from their trusted doctors rather than finding it online? We should be encouraging telemedicine – not forbidding it. Senate Bill 260 is dangerous legislation that would cut off patients from receiving access to safe, legal abortions for people who already have difficulty finding a provider.

As a taxpayer, I propose pro-life lawmakers spend our money in a way that is truly pro-life. Stop introducing illegal legislation that will prevent people from accessing reproductive healthcare. Stop closing down clinics that provide affordable birth control, cancer screenings, and safe sex education which would only increase the number of unplanned pregnancies. Ohio legislatures should be expanding healthcare, not removing it.

I ask that you consider my testimony and vote no on SB 260.

Thank you.