

Chairperson Huffman, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Ohio senate health committee, thank you for allowing me to present testimony in opposition to House Bill 598. My name is Alandra Scott.

If House Bill 598 passes it would ban all abortions immediately. Access to abortion and the right to choose motherhood is a vital part of healthcare. I want the freedom afforded to me by the constitution for myself, my daughter, and all women.

I have lived in Columbus most of my life, I went to Watterson, then earned my bachelors from ODU. After college, I completed a year-long volunteer program and was preparing for law school. During that time, I became pregnant unexpectedly. Without the support of the biological father, I decided to continue the pregnancy, declined acceptance to law school and got a job. I started entry level at a private tech company with a starting salary of \$35,000.

I have struggled to carry the financial responsibility of raising a child as a single parent and working full time. At \$35,000 I could not afford full time daycare. My salary was \$4,000 above the last childcare assistance tier and my family had to help provide free childcare so I could continue work. Three years into my career despite using birth control I became pregnant again unexpectedly without support from the biological father. At this time, I was making around \$47,000. If I had been forced to carry to term, I would not have been able to afford daycare for two children and my family was unable to help at that time. In this position, I would have had to consider quitting my job to apply for government assistance to care for my children.

I am grateful I wasn't forced into single parenthood for a second time. I now can continue working, contributing to our society, and providing for my child. All of this would have been impossible had House Bill 598 been in effect. This bill solely impacts the lives of women in our community. Men do not carry the burden of becoming responsible for a pregnancy or a person. Women should be afforded the freedom to be the determinants of their lives, just as men are.