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Sponsor Testimony

Senate Bill 157

Ohio Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee

June 2, 2021

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Government Oversight and Reform Committee: Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 157, the Born Alive Abortion Survivors Act. This bill will require healthcare professionals to administer the same degree of medical care to an infant that survives an abortion as they would to any other newborn child.

This bill acknowledges the simple fact that, regardless of the circumstances surrounding his or her birth, every child deserves our compassion and care. Under this bill, if a child is born alive after a botched abortion, a physician must act to save that child's life. Failure to do so can result in the physician being charged with a felony in the first degree.

This legislation will create reporting requirements and penalties for the attending physician who fails to report a born-alive baby after a botched abortion. While individual stories will remain confidential, the Department of Health will publish annually the number of babies who survive abortions.

We've heard it argued that bills such as this one are unnecessary because children born alive after abortions are rare or non-existent. But this is not the case. According to the Legislative Service Commission, the Family Research Council has found that in the eight states which have enacted laws that require reporting after an infant is born alive after an attempted abortion, as of August 2020, 112 children were born alive after an attempted abortion.¹

¹ <https://downloads.frc.org/EF/EF19E62.pdf>

Additionally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention conducted research on infant mortality records from 2003 to 2014. In that 12-year span, it was determined that 143 infants died after live births that involved an abortion.² It is worth noting that the reported number may be lower than the actual number due to how deaths are recorded. It is clear, however, that there were at least 143 children who died after being born alive after an abortion.

As medical science continues to advance, the viability of a preterm baby is constantly improving. Despite the improvements in technology and viability of unborn babies, states like New York and Virginia are broadening the ability to obtain an abortion. Yet, once a baby is born, taking any additional act to prevent life from developing is homicide.

For decades the pro-abortion industry has hidden behind the cloak of medical terminology in an attempt to dehumanize an unborn child. Let's be perfectly clear here: a baby human being born alive can no longer be termed a "tissue mass" or even a fetus. It is an infant, and it must by any standard of human decency be treated as such.

Thank you again for your time and consideration. We would be happy to answer any questions at this time.

² https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/health_policy/mortality-records-mentioning-termination-of-pregnancy.htm