



Allison Frazier

Proponent Testimony on Senate Bill 157

Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee

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Chair Roegner, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today on Senate Bill 157. My name is Allison Frazier and I am the Director of Communications for Ohio Right to Life. Today, I speak on behalf of our board, affiliated chapters, and statewide membership in support of Senate Bill 157, the Born-Alive Infant Protection Act.

In 2019, we testified in this committee in support of Senate Resolution 41, which urged congress to pass the federal Born Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. We appreciate that the Ohio Senate voted unanimously to support that resolution in 2019, but as it has become apparent that forward progress in Congress has become nearly impossible, we are here today to request that this legislation be passed so that at least Ohio can take action to protect these young lives.

Senate Bill 157 would require a report to be created by the Ohio Department of Health for the abortionist to file if a baby is born alive during a botched abortion. It would also require that the doctors perform lifesaving treatment to the baby, as they would to an infant born alive in any other situation.

We see the need for this legislation demonstrated in many ways. First, by the numbers that have been collected by the seven other states that have passed similar legislation. Minnesota reported five babies born alive following a failed abortion in 2016, and Florida reported eleven in 2017. We also see the need for the Born-Alive Infant Protection Act in stories like this from Florida, where the AP reported that a baby at 23 weeks gestation survived an abortion procedure only to be thrown in the trash and left to die by the doctor. Or when we look at the abortionist Kermit



Gosnell of Pennsylvania who was convicted of three counts of first-degree murder after it was revealed that he had been killing newborn babies born alive following an attempted abortion by cutting their spinal cords with scissors. Finally, we see the need when we look at reports from the CDC who has collected data from 2003-2014 on the 588 babies who were born alive after induced abortions, documenting how long they lived in minutes, hours, and even days.

Sadly, these and many other examples across the country reveal that these laws are needed. We should all be able to agree that regardless of the circumstance of a baby's birth, once it is born, our very humanity requires that we do everything we can to protect it.

Oddly enough, it has been suggested by some that this legislation is redundant or unneeded in our great state. I would like to dispel any such claims with the following. According to Ohio's most recent Induced Abortion Report, 95 babies at or beyond 20 weeks lost their lives to abortion in Ohio in 2019. We know precious little about these babies' fates- including if any survived the initial attempt to end their lives. We also don't know what potentially deadly fetal abnormalities these defenseless children may have been diagnosed with while still in utero. But let's be very clear. The issue isn't whether or not those children, born prematurely or with a fatal diagnosis, will ultimately survive. The issue is us being able to decide who gets left alone to die and who does not. And without a reporting requirement, like this piece of legislation establishes, any assertions that this never happens can not be stated with any sense of statistical or moral certainty.

Additionally, I would ask that you pay special attention to the written testimony today that was sent in by physicians that couldn't be here this afternoon. They have lent their medical expertise to attest to the pressing need of this legislation.



In the end, this is about protecting defenseless babies who have defied the lethal act of abortion. These children are being forgotten and, quite literally, disposed of as trash. This isn't about abortion; this is about basic human decency.

On behalf of Ohio Right to Life, I ask that you vote in favor of Senate Bill 157 to ensure that Ohio gives infants the best chance at life and that no defenseless baby, after surviving an abortion in our state, is simply left alone to die.