

Written testimony in support of Senate Bill 157, The Born Alive Infant Protection Act.

J. Wells Logan, MD

Chairman, Vice Chairman, ranking members and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to provide this written testimony in support of the Born Alive Infant Protection Act.

My name is Wells Logan. As an academic Neonatologist, I care for the smallest, most vulnerable human beings on the planet. I am writing on behalf of the many liveborn infants in Ohio who remain at risk because Ohio law has failed to provide the same protections that other citizens of Ohio enjoy. As such, it is my strong conviction that the state has a compelling interest in protecting its liveborn citizens, and there is substantial evidence that a beating heart is the most sensitive and reliable indicator that an infant is born alive.

The large majority of infants are born with a beating heart. Whatever the reason for a failed abortion attempt, Infants born with a beating heart deserve the same protections as other liveborn citizens of the state, including those born preterm, with complex congenital heart disease, or leukemia. There is an abundance of literature with evidence that the infant's heart rate is the most reliable sign of life, and this will make sense to any professional who cares for newborns, as the heart rate is the most sensitive indicator of the effectiveness of newborn resuscitation. Stated differently, the heart rate is the single most important vital sign guiding resuscitative efforts. It is fitting, then, that Senate Bill 157, the Born Alive Infant Protection Act, is aimed at protecting those infants born with a beating heart!

Abortion stops a beating heart, the most reliable and sensitive sign of life in the published medical literature. It steals the life, the *heartbeat* of an innocent child. Regardless of their developmental potential, liveborn infants deserve the same protections as any other living citizen in Ohio. Like you and me, children face many challenges in life. But these liveborn innocents still have the potential to enrich the community into which they are born, and they too have the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Given the chance, a liveborn

infant can grow into a productive citizen... a taxpayer, a nurse, a teacher, or a politician! In the rare case that this child is born with a disability, he or she will provide meaningful work for those who are called to such a life of sacrificial love.

The state has a compelling interest, then, in protecting the life of its unborn citizens. Indeed, it is the state's duty to protect its liveborn citizens. Please, do the right thing and vote in favor of Senate Bill 157!

Thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts on this important, VITAL issue for the unborn citizens of Ohio.

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