

Senate Bill 157 Proponent Testimony
Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee
October 6th, 2021
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Chairman Roegner, Vice Chairman McColley, Ranking Member Craig and members of the committee, thank you for providing the opportunity for proponent testimony on Senator Terry Johnson's Senate Bill 157, a bill to recognize the born-alive infant subject of a failed abortion attempt as a living person unto whom care and medical support must be granted by a provider.

My name is Laura Streitmann, the new executive director of Right to Life of Greater Cincinnati. On behalf our our board of directors staff, volunteers and supporters, I come before you today to offer our support of this bill.

Senator Johnson's legislation is a very simple and straightforward bill: if an abortion is attempted upon an unborn child and fails, with those result being the child is born alive, then

the provider would be penalized under the abortion manslaughter provision of the bill for purposely failing to take measures to preserve the health of the living child after the failed abortion attempt. The bill's provisions also allow for a woman to file a lawsuit for damages relative to the purposeful failure of the provider to preserve the born-alive child's life and health.

The Ohio Department of Health would be directed under the bill to create a "child survival form", a confidential record that an abortion provider must submit within 15 days of the discharge of the woman after a failed abortion attempt culminating in a live birth. Failure to comply with the record requirement would be a third-degree felony. Again, with this requirement, there is a provision for a woman on whom the failed abortion is performed to file a civil suit for failure to comply with this reporting.

These requirements will work to ensure that Ohio does not move the direction of states like New York, Illinois, nor follow the thinking of Virginia Governor Ralph Northam and seriously consider allowing a child born after a failed abortion to be left to die without care.

Thank you for your kind attention to my comments. We look forward to this bill being advanced through the process, and I would be happy to take any questions.

