



Mary Parker

Proponent Testimony for S.B. 201

Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee

December 8, 2021

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Government Oversight and Reform Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony for Senate Bill 201. My name is Mary Parker, and I am the Director of Legislative Affairs for Ohio Right to Life. Today, I speak on behalf of our board members, affiliated chapters, and statewide membership in support of Senate Bill 201.

Senate Bill 201 would designate January 22nd of each year as a “Day of Tears” to memorialize the lives of those children lost to abortion as a result of the Supreme Court’s decision *Roe v. Wade* that was issued on January 22, 1973. On this day of mourning, Ohioans would be encouraged to lower their flags to half-staff to pay respect to all children who are not here with us today because of abortion. This piece of legislation also includes a sunset provision to conclude this day of remembrance when *Roe v. Wade* is overturned by the United States Supreme Court, and states will once again be able to protect those who are most vulnerable in society.

Using data from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Guttmacher Institute, the National Right to Life Committee estimates that abortion has claimed the lives of over 62,504,904 children since 1973.ⁱ According to the 2020 abortion report issued by the Ohio Department of Health, there were over 20,605 abortions in Ohio alone.ⁱⁱ

We cannot be silent in the face of such tragedy. The millions of lives lost to abortion deserve to be remembered not only by a few but by all in the state of Ohio. Silence only perpetuates the victimization of these children. By honoring their memory, we have an opportunity to repent of this evil and teach future generations to value the sanctity and inviolable dignity of all human life.

Thank you for your consideration. At this time, I am happy to answer any questions that the committee may have.

ⁱ <https://www.lifenews.com/2021/01/18/62502904-babies-have-been-killed-in-abortions-since-roe-v-wade-in-1973/>

ⁱⁱ <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/vital-statistics/resources/vs-abortionreport2020>