



# Center FOR Christian Virtue

Public Policy. Engagement. Education.

To: Chair Steve Huffman  
Vice Chair Niraj Antani  
Ranking Member Nickie Antonio  
Senate Health Committee

From: Nilani Jawahar  
Legislative Liaison  
Center for Christian Virtue

Re: Support for SB 123

Chair Huffman, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Health Committee,

My name is Nilani Jawahar and I am here on behalf of the Center for Christian Virtue, Ohio's largest Christian public policy organization, to testify in favor of SB 123, also known as the Human Life Protection Act.

In 1973, the Supreme Court, in its decision on *Roe v. Wade*, overstepped one of the great hallmarks of our system of federalism—the right of the states to make their own laws. In fact, this case was so famously poorly decided that even the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who was hardly a pro-life activist, did not support it, believing that the decision should have been narrower because a sweeping decision to require abortion access in all fifty states would generate too much controversy, ultimately harming the pro-abortion movement more than helping it.<sup>1</sup> I bring this up to say that the Court's ruling on *Roe* is universally recognized as poor jurisprudence—even if some favor the outcome—making the possibility of it being overturned increasingly more likely, especially with the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* case being heard before the Court this December. If and when *Roe* is overturned, the power to restrict access to abortion will return to the states, who have the right to make their own laws in accordance with their beliefs and values.

When considering whether or not abortion should be legal in Ohio, we ought to ask the question: who benefits from it? Do the people of Ohio benefit from it? Is it strengthening our families and communities? According to the Guttmacher Institute, the majority of

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.law.uchicago.edu/news/justice-ruth-bader-ginsburg-offers-critique-roe-v-wade-during-law-school-visit>



women who have abortions in the United States are unmarried.<sup>2</sup> Abortion encourages men not to take responsibility for the women they sleep with and dissuades them from stepping up and learning how to be a father and care for their children.

Do minorities benefit from abortion? Margaret Sanger, the founder of what is today known as Planned Parenthood, was a eugenicist. This means that she believed that hereditary qualities can and ought to be improved by socially controlling human reproduction. In 1939, Sanger initiated the “Negro Project,” which was an effort to expand access to abortion to black communities in the rural South. Are we really expected to believe that a white woman who believed birth control and abortion could be tools for exterminating the “unfit” population, planted abortion clinics in low-income, minority neighborhoods out of a desire to help them?

According to the Ohio Department of Health’s Induced Abortion Report in 2020, there were a total of 20,605 abortions performed in Ohio last year, and out of those, 48.1% of the women receiving these abortions were black.<sup>3</sup> If my math is correct, that is 9,911 little black Ohioans who should be here with us today.

Ohio isn’t even the worst of it. According to the city of New York’s abortion reporting in 2016, a black baby in New York City is statistically more likely to be aborted than born.<sup>4</sup> Think about that for a minute. Sanger’s mission of systemic racism lives on.

To those who are concerned that this bill being signed into law would make doctors nervous about terminating pregnancies in instances where it is medically necessary to preserve the life and health of the mother, for fear of a lawsuit, I would answer that in any situation where someone is dealing with a person’s life and health, he ought to have fear of a lawsuit. Human life is precious and people’s bodies are not to be treated precariously. The termination of a pregnancy should never be done lightly—only in situations where it is absolutely necessary, such as in the case of an ectopic pregnancy, where the baby’s chance of survival is zero and the mother’s chance of death or serious bodily harm is guaranteed. If doctors terminate pregnancies only in such situations, they are protected under this bill.

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<sup>2</sup> [https://www.guttmacher.org/sites/default/files/report\\_downloads/us-abortion-patients-table1.pdf](https://www.guttmacher.org/sites/default/files/report_downloads/us-abortion-patients-table1.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/wcm/connect/gov/9a941c10-fc7d-40ae-8ae3-ac5757ab727f/Induced+Abortions+in+Ohio+2020.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CONVERT\\_TO=url&CACHEID=ROOTWORKSPACE.Z18\\_M1HGGIK0N0JO00QO9DDDDM3000-9a941c10-fc7d-40ae-8ae3-ac5757ab727f-nMZbBrr](https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/wcm/connect/gov/9a941c10-fc7d-40ae-8ae3-ac5757ab727f/Induced+Abortions+in+Ohio+2020.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CONVERT_TO=url&CACHEID=ROOTWORKSPACE.Z18_M1HGGIK0N0JO00QO9DDDDM3000-9a941c10-fc7d-40ae-8ae3-ac5757ab727f-nMZbBrr)

<sup>4</sup> <https://lozierinstitute.org/abortion-reporting-new-york-city-2016/>



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For the past two years I have had the privilege of volunteering at my local pregnancy resource center, counseling women in crisis pregnancies. It is often said about pregnancy centers that they “manipulate women into keeping their babies.” I can tell you that in the two years that I have volunteered there, I have never once been told to tell a woman that abortion was not an option for her. When a woman’s pregnancy test comes back positive, I talk to her about her options. She has three of them—motherhood, adoption, or abortion.

She isn’t told her options when she goes to Planned Parenthood. That’s because abortion clinics profit off of selling abortions. They have no interest in telling women that they can do it—that they can be mothers, or else make another family very happy by blessing them with the gift of a child. They are profiting off of manipulating vulnerable women and disempowering them by convincing them that having an abortion will make them free—but it won’t. Pregnancy centers, on the other hand, don’t take a penny from any woman who walks through their doors. So if you want to know who benefits from abortion, it’s the abortion industry.

In Ohio we make our laws to benefit the people of this great state—not corrupt industries that prey upon the desperate. We also repeatedly and enthusiastically affirm a culture of life. For this reason, I urge the committee to support passage of this bill. Thank you for taking the time to listen. I am happy to answer any questions.

*The Center for Christian Virtue (CCV) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that endeavors to create an Ohio where God’s blessings of life, family, and religious freedom are treasured, respected, and protected.*

*www.ccv.org -- (513) 733-5775*