

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the Senate Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present proponent testimony today on SB 123 The Human Life Protection Act.

My name is Gabriel Vance, and I am from Galena, OH. I am first a Catholic Christian, a father of three, and a full-time missionary fighting for human rights. I work as the Director of External Affairs for Created Equal, the organization I am representing today. Created Equal is a national anti-abortion organization based in Columbus, OH that focuses on training students to be human rights defenders. Each year we lead hundreds of outreaches, to help as many realize as possible that elective abortion is always morally wrong as elective abortion always intentionally kills a human being.

As a concerned Ohio citizen and defender of human rights, I urge the committee to vote in support of SB 123.

According to the Ohio Department of Health's 2020 annual induced abortions report 20,600 innocent human beings were killed by abortion last year in Ohio. That is an average of 56 abortions per day in our great state. There is an average of 10 per day in our city of Columbus. These unique, living human beings who are starved, dismembered, or poisoned.

It is a scientific fact that every woman who has an abortion is pregnant with a whole, living, distinct human beings. Dr. C. Ward Kischer, Professor Emeritus of Human Embryology of the University of Arizona School of Medicine, Dr. C. Ward Kischer, affirms that "Every human embryologist, worldwide, states that the life of the new individual human being begins at fertilization (conception)." In a recent study completed by Dr. Stephen Jacobs at the University of Chicago, 96% of 5,577 biologists from around the world affirm that human life begins at fertilization. According to the study, the sample of biologists was predominantly non-religious (63 percent), with more liberals (89 percent) than conservatives (11 percent), with more Democrats (92 percent) than Republicans (8 percent) out of the American biologists, and pro-choice supporters (85 percent) than pro-life supporters (15 percent). Prominent abortion supporters like Dr. Peter Singer and Dr. David Boonin and even the abortionists that commit the killing themselves, like Dr. Willie Parker and Dr. Leroy Carhart, state that abortion kills a human being. If you think that abortion does not kill human beings or refuse to readily admit this, you are choosing to ignore a clear modern scientific consensus because doing this would prick your conscience and urge you to change your pro-abortion beliefs.

Yes, the innocent humans killed in elective abortions are different than you and I. They are smaller, less developed, in a different environment, and more dependent on another human than you and me, but every toddler and many other born humans differ in these ways. We do not believe born humans with these differences are any less human, less of a person or should be killed if older people desire their deaths. If we do not oppress born humans because of these differences, then we cannot logically and

morally discriminate against preborn humans because of them. If we support discriminating against humans simply because of their age, we are ageist and fall into the company of those who are sexist or racist. Every human being deserves to have his or her personhood acknowledged by the law despite arbitrary differences outside of their control like race, sex, and age.

Many mothers with born children find themselves in terrible unbelievable circumstances, my mother who had a daughter at 16 years old was one of them, but we would never allow these mothers to starve or violently kill their born children as the solution no matter how young or poor they may be or how their child was conceived, so we cannot allow preborn children to be killed as a solution either. Especially as over 1,000 medical professionals have signed the Dublin Declaration declaring that intentionally killing a preborn child is never necessary to save the life of the mother. We must forgive, love, support, and care for mothers in hard pregnancies, but we must not give in to the lie that women need a medical procedure to be equal, that women must intentionally kill another human to be happy and successful. Women and mothers deserve greater respect than such a demeaning view. They deserve real solutions to the things that made their pregnancy a crisis and long-term help. Abortion hurts a majority of women either physically, mentally, or emotionally.

It is always wrong to intentionally kill an innocent human being, elective abortion always does this, so elective abortion is always wrong. The preborn are humans and humans are equal despite our many differences. One cannot believe in human rights and stand for human equality while supporting legal abortion. You must choose. Human equality or the legal killing of innocent humans in abortion. You cannot have both.

This is the image (copied at bottom of testimony) of a child who was killed at Northeast Ohio Women's Center in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio this year. You can clearly see her leg and foot in this photo. She was killed by a D&E abortion between 15-17 weeks. After being dismembered, her body was illegally disposed of in the facility's trash along with prescription vials, soiled suction cannulas used in abortions, bloody surgical papers, and urine cups that still had names of clinic patients on them, along with biohazard waste. These items and her body were retrieved on June 7<sup>th</sup>. Complaints have been filed and the clinic is under investigation. This little child was named Gianna-John and her body was buried October 2<sup>nd</sup> at Holy Cross Cemetery in Akron, OH. This is the reality of abortion in our state.

This is why any senator and member of congress in our state and across our country with a well-formed conscience must do all they can to ban the intentional killing of helpless, defenseless humans in abortion, SB 123 will do in that case that Roe v. Wade is overturned. According to the Guttmacher Institute, Arkansas, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Utah (along with laws being added to statutes in Oklahoma and Texas on November 1<sup>st</sup>) all have a post-Roe abortion ban in law intended to take effect if Roe is overturned. Five

other states (Alabama, Arizona, Michigan, West Virginia, and Wisconsin) have unenforced Pre-Roe abortion bans. Ohio should be the next state in joining them to protect the most basic human right- the right to life- of all humans within their borders. Texas has shown us that a near-total ban can be tolerated by our culture. The Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization case that the Supreme Court hears oral arguments for on December 1<sup>st</sup>, could overturn Roe v. Wade and send the possibility of abortion bans back to the states. With this is sight, not is the time to protect human life. No is the time to pass SB 123.

If I may make one last point. If anyone here is in an unplanned pregnancy, knows a scared mother who is, or finds themselves or someone else in one in the future, know that there are dozens of free pregnancy resource centers in Ohio, much outnumbering the nine abortion facilities. Visit [OptionLine.org](http://OptionLine.org) to learn of these resources. There are also dozens of groups where mothers and fathers who have aborted their children, can find forgiveness and healing in the infinite mercy and love of God, made available to us through the incarnation, life, passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ who is true man and true God. You can find this healing at [BethesdaHealing.org](http://BethesdaHealing.org). I am a great sinner just in as much in need of God's mercy as anyone and there is nothing I could want more for any of you than to find the truth, grace, and fulfillment that I have found. Everyone at Created Equal, the organization I represent, will tell you that we are saved by grace through faith in Christ, but I as an individual also want to share with you the beauty of how salvation is made available to us all through Christ's Catholic Church. Jesus promised us that "whoever believes and is baptized will be saved" in Mark 16:16. His Apostle Peter explained in Acts 2:28 "Peter [said] to them, 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the holy Spirit.'" Jesus told His Apostles, "Whose sins you forgive are forgiven" in John 20:23. He also proclaimed "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats[s] my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink" in John 6:53-55. Jesus offers to wash each of us clean, to forgive our sins, to feed us with His very Flesh so that He can physically dwell within us and unite Himself to us. Jesus offers us all salvation; may we all accept this gift given to us through His Catholic Church. Many of you who support abortion here today, may support legal abortion in order to justify the abortion that killed your own baby, took the life of a sibling, a grandchild, a niece, or a friend's baby. I urge you to follow the path of repentance, healing, and freedom, and not the path that leads to more humans being killed and people being gravely wounded.

I urge you all to vote in support of SB 123 and to sincerely consider your own stance on elective abortion- an act that murders human beings- humans just like me, just like you Chairman Burke, just like you Vice Chair Antani, just like you Ranking Member Antonio, just like you Senator Johnson, just like you Senator Roegner, just like you Senator Romanchuk, and just like you Senator Thomas.

Abortion kills one human every 36 seconds in America, more humans than any other cause of death. What other issue could be more important for our laws to address? Be not afraid to take a stand for human rights and change your voting on this issue. The lives of innocent people, created in the image and likeness of God, depend on it. May God have mercy on us, and may He bless America and each one of you.

Chairman Huffman and members of the committee, I will be happy to answer any questions you may have; and, if you would like the sources of any evidence I included in my testimony, I will be happy to send it to you by email.