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Education & Workforce Development

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Sponsor Testimony House Bill 619
Education and Career Readiness Committee
November 13th, 2018

Chairman Brenner, Vice-Chair Slaby, Ranking Member Fedor, and Members of the Education and Career Readiness Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 619, which would require the development of an instructional program and educational informational materials in order to provide fetal education in schools.

Schools have the ability to directly influence the lives of students. Unfortunately, schools do not have the ability to teach about the importance of human life, as the rights of the unborn have been constantly under attack. My legislation would help school districts care for their students and unborn children by empowering them with vital educational information on health care and adoption agencies in the area. This education would include providing accurate, scientifically verifiable information concerning the probable anatomical and physiological characteristics of the unborn child at two-week gestational intervals. This would be accomplished by requiring the school board or governing authority to either adopt the state instructional program established by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the state board of education, or craft instruction materials. These instructional materials would need to describe the unborn child in two-week gestational intervals, include information on local prenatal health care, and will not discuss human sexuality education.

HB 619 would also ensure pregnant women are knowledgeable of agencies that offer services through pregnancy and childbirth. This is achieved in this bill by instructing the Ohio Department of Health to establish and maintain a database of all public and private agencies that provide this care, and to provide information on all adoption agencies in the state. This will increase educational opportunities so mothers may best care for their child, and to ensure these parents are made aware of all the resources that are dedicated to assist them and their child. If students learn accurate information about fetal development in the womb, it will hopefully create a culture of life. If we as a society do not protect life from conception to natural death, then we are failing the very ideals this General Assembly was established to protect.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 619. I would be happy to take any questions.