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**Written Testimony in Support of HB149
House Health Committee
May 3, 2017**

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the Health Committee, I am unable to travel to Columbus for this hearing today, so I am writing to support House Bill 149, better known as the Abortion Trafficking Prevention Act.

For almost two years, there has been a series of videos released by the Center for Medical Progress that have exposed the gruesome practice of Planned Parenthood and other abortion-focused organizations to allegedly profit from the sale of the body parts of the innocent unborn human beings that were killed by abortion. The facts revealed by these videos are horrifying, sickening, and horrendous. It is compounded by the fact that the abortionists who were filmed display such a callous disregard for the human lives that they have ended. In some of the videos, the abortionists discuss ways in which to modify future abortion procedures in highly illegal methods in order to get more intact body parts. If you haven't seen these videos, then I suggest that you watch them. You can view every one of them on our organization's website.

What is most disturbing about the reaction to these videos is the fact that the liberal media has focused on the creator of the video rather than on the people who were committing the alleged illegal, immoral and unethical sale of body parts. The media and the ultra-wealthy Planned Parenthood organization has managed to re-write the narrative to blame the messenger, and take the focus off of the message.

The majority of these videos were filmed in locations in Texas and California. Subsequent investigations nationwide, including in Ohio, were conducted to determine if this gruesome practice was happening in other states. Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine investigated the Planned Parenthood abortion facilities in Ohio and announced in December of 2015 that he could find no evidence of this, but did discover that Planned Parenthood was disposing of aborted children in Ohio's landfills along with the trash.

I am grateful that Ohio has not been the subject of these videos, but because it supposedly has not happened here, that doesn't mean that it can't. Ohio law (ORC 9.041) states that it is the public policy of the state of Ohio to prefer childbirth over abortion to the extent that it is constitutionally permissible. Until the day that we can end the tragedy of legal abortion, I am encouraged that Ohio has been able to pass very stringent regulations on its practice. However, I am discouraged because regardless of the

strong laws that we have passed, the abortion industry in Ohio is routinely disregarding many rules and regulations because the penalties are not prohibitive, and the enforcement is weak. The penalty at present for selling aborted children's body parts is only a first degree misdemeanor. We have stronger penalties in effect for abusing animals!

We need to be proactive to prevent the horrific trafficking of aborted children from occurring in Ohio like that which was uncovered in the Center for Medical Progress videos. I beg of you to please support House Bill 149 which would make it a third degree felony to knowingly participate in the unlawful sale of an unborn child's body parts.

Please feel free to contact me at any time should you have any questions or concerns.