

OHIO PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION

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John E. Murphy
Executive Director

HB-149; Abortion Trafficking
Proponent Testimony
May 3, 2017
House Health Committee

Our association supports the enactment of HB-149 to modify the offense of abortion trafficking and also to increase the penalty for abortion trafficking to a third degree felony.

Current law prohibits the sale of a product of human conception that is aborted. This bill would also prohibit an abortionist or person associated with an abortionist from financially benefitting or receiving any type of compensation for allowing another person not involved in the abortion to have access to the product of human conception that is aborted, or for transferring possession of the product to a person not involved in the performance of the abortion. This would impose criminal liability on one who receives compensation for allowing access to the product of human conception that is aborted even though the transaction might not legally constitute a "sale".

We also support the increase in penalty. The current penalty for abortion trafficking is a first degree misdemeanor. We agree that the penalty for abortion trafficking should at least be equivalent to the current penalty for the sale of body parts, a third degree felony.

We therefore support the enactment of HB-149.

cc: Rep. Bill Patmon
Rep. Margaret Conditt

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