



CITIZENS FOR COMMUNITY VALUES

Creating an Ohio where God's blessings of life, family, and religious freedom are treasured, respected, and protected.

September 20, 2017

TO: Ohio House Health Committee
Chairman Representative Stephen A. Huffman

FROM: Citizens for Community Values
Josh Brown, Esq., Legal Counsel and Director of Policy

Chairman Huffman, ranking member Antonio, and members of the Committee,

We write today to indicate our **support** for House Bill 214 The Downs Syndrome Non-discrimination Act, because this bill will help Ohio protect the most vulnerable among us.

Pro-choice advocates often refer to abortion as “health care.” But what disease or injury does abortion treat? Downs syndrome is a disease that is sometimes discoverable during gestation. In what way does abortion treat that condition?

The primary thrust of the pro-choice arguments about abortion and the principle justification for liberalization of abortion, focuses on the importance of a mother’s privacy in health care, seeking to emancipate women and foster female autonomy. In fact, the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in *Roe v. Wade* was justified by the State’s “important and legitimate interest in preserving and protecting the *health of the pregnant woman* . . . [and] the potentiality of human life (emphasis added).”¹ This bill does not affect that. This bill only addresses abortions that are motivated solely by a probability concerning a *child’s health*—specifically the likelihood that the child might have Downs syndrome—as opposed to whether the mother has any particular circumstance. Because of this, we see no compelling argument against the bill, as a child’s health, particularly regarding the treatment of children with Down syndrome, is clearly a matter involving paramount state interests.

The sponsors’ testimony goes into great details about the quality of life and happiness that people with Downs syndrome and their families can attain. Further, American and Ohioan law—which is rooted in Judeo-Christian values—values all human life. All of us are created in the image of God. We are distinguished by how we treat and care for the most vulnerable among us. We do not care for people and treat their diseases by cutting off their lives altogether. It is inhumane to cut off the life of an innocent child merely because the child may have Downs syndrome.

Thank you,

Josh Brown, Esq.
Legal Counsel and Director of Policy, Citizens for Community Values

¹ *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113, 162 (1972).