

As a medical student and as a woman, I implore you to vote NO on HB 214. As a future physician, I have grave concerns about a bill that would impair my ability to discuss a Down's syndrome diagnosis with a patient. My patients will likely be unwilling to discuss any real concerns about a Down' syndrome diagnosis if they think it will impair their ability to make decisions about their own reproductive health. Being able to openly discuss medical information with my patients is very important for me to be able to do my job and passage of this bill may cause me and other physicians to be wary of offering important prenatal testing to our patients. I am an Ohio native, and have always hoped to practice in Ohio, but these kinds of bills make me feel less comfortable with practice in this state. Any bill that restricts abortion can push women to resort to dangerous means to end unwanted pregnancies. Although this ban does not criminalize women that get abortions, it will still interfere with a woman's ability to discuss a Down's syndrome diagnosis for fear of how it will impact her access to care. This ban also applies to both pre- and post-viability abortions and includes no exception for situations in which the woman's health is endangered. This is unconstitutional and violates legal precedent prohibiting pre-viability abortion bans. If legislators truly want to benefit those with disabilities, instead of wasting tax dollars on an unconstitutional abortion ban, they can redirect those funds to help those currently living with disabilities in our communities. Please vote NO to a bill that restricts women's access to care and prevents trust between physicians and their patients.

Sincerely,

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Claire Lewis

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