

Janis Tullis
Senate Bill 23 – Six-Week Abortion Ban
Opponent Testimony
Ohio House Health Committee

Chairman Merrin, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Boyd, and members of the House Health, Human Services, and Medicaid Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 23, the dangerous six week abortion ban.

In 1976, while serving in the US Air Force and stationed oversea in Okinawa my birth control failed and I became pregnant. Like other women before me, failed birth control left me with a big decision: have a child or have an abortion. If I chose to have the child, I would have been removed from my job, my financial means of support, shipped back to the west coast, and left homeless with no support system.

I had joined the Air Force to get away from an abusive boyfriend; there was no way to return to my hometown to raise a child in a safe environment. If the Six Week Heartbeat Bill had been the law, I would not have had time to make my decision. I did not even know that I was pregnant until I had missed my second period, which occurred at 8 weeks. The government has no compelling interest in making child bearing decisions for women. Only I could decide what to do and how to deal with the possibility of having a child. Having a child would have created an untenable situation with no home, no food and no support from anyone.

I personally could not in my moral opinion hand over a child to unknown people to raise. There is no way to guarantee a healthy environment for a child, so I made the best decision for myself and had an abortion. It would be immoral to force another woman to have an abortion. I believe that the decision to have an abortion is a personal one. No one, including the government, has the right to deprive women of the option of having an abortion.

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