

Rosario Alarcon
Senate Bill 23 – Six-Week Abortion Ban
Opponent Testimony
Ohio Senate Health, Human Services, and Medicaid Committee
February 26, 2019

Chairman Burke, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio, and Members of the Ohio Senate Health, Human Services, and Medicaid Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Rosario Alarcon. I am a medical student in Ohio and I am strongly opposed to SB 23.

As a current medical student and future healthcare professional, I believe it is irresponsible to let politicians make medical decisions for patients. The reasons women choose to have abortions vary for each individual and are complex. These reasons can range from being too young to have a child, not wanting to have any more children, becoming pregnant through a traumatic event such as sexual assault or coercion, from the pregnancy posing a health risk to the mother, and other reasons. Moreover, 90% of women who are using contraception and not seeking pregnancy may still become pregnant. Up to half of pregnancies in the United States are unintended. This bill will attempt to ban abortion at six weeks, when most women don't even know that they're pregnant. Furthermore, abortion is one of the safest medical procedures, and there are already many restrictions to access in place for women seeking reproductive services related to pregnancy. The risk of complication from a first trimester abortion is only 0.05%, compared to 13% due to complications from illegal, unsafe abortions. Also, according to studies published in the Obstetrics & Gynecology journal, a first trimester abortion is approximately fourteen times safer than childbirth. By passing this bill, more women would be unnecessarily placed at higher risk of mortality.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this harmful bill.

Thank you for your time,
Rosario Alarcon