

Juliana Lavey
Opponent Testimony
Senate Bill 23
Ohio Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee
Wednesday, February 26, 2019

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify today in opposition to Senate Bill 23, the dangerous six-week abortion ban.

My name is Juliana Lavey. I am an Ohio medical student planning on entering into Family Medicine and providing comprehensive patient care, including access to reproductive and family planning services. I am strongly opposed to SB 23.

Women seeking abortions are in vulnerable and high-stress situations. Approximately 90% of women who do not want to become pregnant are using contraceptive. Despite this, about half of the pregnancies in this country are unintended, and as a result one in four women in their lifetime will have an abortion. This is a safe and common procedure. American citizens have a constitutional right to have access to this procedure, and SB 23 puts unfair and bias restrictions on this right that are not based on medical reasoning.

This bill would limit any abortions past six weeks, which is before many women even know they are pregnant. This effectively removes the woman's ability to be an active participant in her medical care. This bill is a direct violation of the precedent set by Roe v. Wade and is unduly influenced by the personal beliefs of the bill writers and has no foundation in science, women's health, or clinical care.

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

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.
Juliana Lavey