

Barbara K Myers
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 Senate Health Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Barbara Myers, and I am strongly opposed to Bill SB 23. I am currently the Chair of the Cincinnati Women's Political Caucus, an affiliate of the National Women's Political Caucus. We are a multi-partisan coalition of persons from all backgrounds, economic levels and political concerns whose aim is to get more women to participate in the political and governmental processes and advance their status through political action. A key part of our **Mission** is to ensure reproductive freedom and freedom of sexual orientation. I am also the Treasurer of the Board of the Friends of the Harriet Beecher Stowe House in Cincinnati, a historical museum owned by the Ohio History Connection, a Board member of the Decorative Arts Society of Cincinnati, an active member of the Women's City Club of Greater Cincinnati, a civic organization, and an active participant in many campaigns in Ohio. I am now retired, but even during my 30 year career in Finance for a major multi-national corporation, I was working to protect a woman's right to manager her own body and her own medical decisions.

I was a young woman beginning her career when contraception was almost impossible to get, even for a married woman. I could not get credit without having a man sign for me, even though I was supporting myself, living alone, and able to pay all my bills. I saw the devastation that came from back alley abortions, particularly on women like me who were poor. I was lucky enough to be able to work my way up the chain of corporate America and earn my way into the middle class, but know far too many women who were not so lucky. This bill could take away a women's right to make her own medical decisions before she would have know she even had a decision to make. Abortion is a critical component not only of women's health care, but of their ability to lead free and fulfilling lives with dignity and autonomy. Women don't turn to politicians for advice about mammograms, prenatal care or cancer care. Politicians should not be involved in a woman's personal medical decisions about her pregnancy.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote *NO* on this harmful and dangerous bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Barbara K Myers
Chair
Cincinnati Women's Political Caucus