

**Katie Norris**  
**Opponent Testimony**  
**Senate Bill 23**  
**Ohio Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee**  
**Wednesday, February 26, 2019**

Chairman Burke, Vice-Chair Huffman, Ranking Minority Member Antonio, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Katie Norris. My wife and I are proud Daytonians, and I work as a scientist in public service. I am strongly opposed to SB 23.

As a woman, a citizen of Ohio, and an active advocate for reproductive healthcare rights I know that SB 23 is unnecessary, extreme, and most importantly dangerous. It would put Ohio women, like me, and families, like mine, at risk. I am fortunate enough to have the time and resources to put towards writing this testimony, and I do so with the hope to remind you of the many everyday women and families of Ohio who do not. I can only speak from my experience and reflect upon the women that I have met and helped through my work to protect the abortion rights of Ohio women, but know that they want their voices heard and reproductive rights respected by you as well.

The far-reaching impact of abortion restrictions, like SB 23, is felt most by those who already experience barriers to health care, including young women, women of color and those with disabilities, women with low incomes, and women who live in rural areas or are undocumented. Effectively banning abortion altogether could unnecessarily place these women's lives in jeopardy. As public servants, we are entrusted with seeing the long-term, big-picture, common good including protecting reproductive public health for all!

Given Ohio's high rates of maternal and infant mortality and rates of opioid addiction, I ask you instead to focus on increasing access to preventative care, not working to restrict access to safe reproductive healthcare. Access to abortion is crucial to women's social and economic equality, and you were elected to work to create a more just and equal Ohio. SB 23 puts the individual liberty, dignity, equality, and privacy of all women of Ohio at stake. It puts me, my family, and those I love and fight for at stake.

I ask you to consider my testimony and all the women of Ohio and vote NO on this dangerous and unjust bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Katie Norris  
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