



Stephanie Ranade Krider

Proponent Testimony on Senate Resolution 41

Senate Health, Human Services, and Medicaid Committee

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Chairman Burke, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today on Senate Resolution 41. My name is Stephanie Ranade Krider and I am the Vice President and Executive Director of Ohio Right to Life, Ohio's largest and longest-serving pro-life organization. Today, I speak on behalf of our Board, affiliated chapters, and members in support of Senate Resolution 41, which urges Congress to enact the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act.

As we debate this difficult topic, I believe it is important to state what we are not talking about. Simply put, the federal Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act is not about banning or restricting abortion. This bill creates penalties in federal code to punish doctors who refuse to provide life-saving care to a born-alive infant who survives a failed abortion.

It seems that this shouldn't be a terribly divisive bill. Living, breathing human infants deserve the same protection across the board, regardless of the circumstance surrounding their birth. But recently, when the United States Senate took a vote on this commonsense protection, 44 US Senators voted against it, including Ohio's Sen. Sherrod Brown.



Pro-Life Ohioans were shocked that this legislation was not something our senators could agree upon. Opponents of this resolution will likely get up and say that this is not a real problem, or something that plainly does not happen. I can tell you that that is absolutely untrue. On the national stage, there are a number of pro-life speakers whose pro-life testimony began because they were born after an attempted abortion failed. Notable examples of this are Melissa Ohden, who submitted written testimony in favor of Senate Bill 23, and Gianna Jessen, both of whom were born alive after an attempted saline abortion. Jessen was left with cerebral palsy due to oxygen deprivation during the procedure, and she has overcome significant barriers to share her story across the country.

In 2002, Congress passed a similar bill. The bill currently in front of the U.S. Senate builds on the protections of the original legislation by requiring health care practitioners to exercise the same level of care they would provide to any newborn, among other provisions. In 2002, it passed the U.S. Senate unanimously. It was not until recently that working to save a baby's life who was born after an abortion would be considered controversial. I ask you to join us in urging Congress to support this commonsense legislation by supporting Senate Resolution 41.