

Chair Burke, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Minority Member Antonio, and members of the Ohio Health, Human Services, and Medicaid Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Mason Hickman, I am a twenty-two - year-old man, I live in Columbus, Ohio and I am here today to voice my opposition to Senate Bill 155.

I have been a resident of Ohio for my entire life, I am a student at The Ohio State University, and most importantly, I am a registered voter. I have built my life in Ohio. I am incredibly invested in the communities here – and to see you all turn against your own communities by introducing a medically-inaccurate, medically-unproven, unethical, and dangerous bill – absolutely disgusts me.

The people of Ohio, people who you are responsible for and in charge of protecting, voted to put you in those seats – and now you are betraying them by pushing a bill that will allow a medically-inaccurate procedure, a procedure not approved by the FDA, to become the law of the land. You are more attentive to upholding your own ideology and partisan beliefs, than you are to protecting your constituents. These are real people we're talking about. This bill is meant to do nothing more than to shame and coerce patients into changing their minds about a private medical decision.

Would you try to pass legislation to coerce people into changing their minds if they were getting their tonsils taken out, if they were getting their wisdom teeth taken out, or if they were having a colonoscopy? I'd like to know – because all of those procedures are more dangerous and riskier than having an abortion. If you cannot trust and respect your constituents to make private, medical decisions about their own bodies in the privacy and safety of a medical office – then you do not deserve to be the politician representing them.

As a lifelong Ohio resident – I someday plan to have a family, buy a home, and continue contributing to the communities that I love. However – I refuse to raise children in a state that will not respect their bodily autonomy. Whether my child is capable of childbearing or not, whether my child will want to have an abortion or not, whether my child is straight, gay, cisgender, transgender, or non-binary – they deserve to know that they are protected and respected under the law. I deserve that, the people in this room deserve that, and the citizens of Ohio deserve to know that.

I ask you to consider voting NO on this dangerous, medically-inaccurate, and unconstitutional bill – so that you are not knowingly putting the pregnant citizens of Ohio in danger, knowingly violating their constitutional rights, and knowingly putting yourselves on the wrong side of history. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

I will now answer any questions you may have.