



Jaime Miracle  
Deputy Director  
Senate Bill 208 Opponent Testimony  
Senate Health, Human Services, and Aging Committee  
October 22, 2019

Chairman Burke, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Health, Human Services, and Aging Committee, my name is Jaime Miracle and I am the Deputy Director of NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio. I am here to testify on behalf of our more than 50,000 members and activists against Senate Bill 208, yet another bill based on misinformation and propaganda used to stigmatize abortion providers and the patients they serve.

First, let's make something crystal clear, what proponents claim they are trying to accomplish in Senate Bill 208 is already law. It is already a first degree felony to not provide care. This bill is a solution in search of a problem and is most certainly not about medicine. It perpetuates myths and lies about abortion care, the individuals who receive this care, and the doctors who care for them. Senate Bill 208 reveals the consistent strategy of anti-abortion legislators, whose ultimate goal is to push abortion completely out of reach for Ohioans.

Numerous health care organizations, representing thousands of clinicians, oppose bills like Senate Bill 208, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American College of Nurse Midwives, and the Society of Maternal-Fetal Medicine. These groups oppose these bills because they unnecessarily place politicians between a patient and their doctor, and impose felony penalties on medical providers. Additionally, Ohio's version of this bill has no exception for actions taken by the pregnant women, and therefore could be used to prosecute pregnant individuals for actions taken during pregnancy.

Each day, people across Ohio and our nation face the deeply personal decision of whether or not to continue their pregnancies. Their circumstances are as varied as the individuals themselves—some with a healthy desired pregnancy, some with a pregnancy that is unplanned, and some with severe health conditions that modern medicine simply cannot fix. Instead of respecting the decisions made by these individuals and acknowledging the complexities of medical decisions, abortion opponents push bills like Senate Bill 208 to distract from their true agenda of pushing all abortion care out of reach.

First, abortion opponents worked to pass laws regulating how abortion is provided through targeted restrictions on abortion providers or TRAP laws. Next, they turned to passing incremental bans on abortion, starting with a post-viability ban; then a 22-week ban; next a method ban, banning the most commonly used abortion procedure in second trimester; then finally their crown jewel, the near total abortion ban, signed into law this spring by Governor DeWine. But they haven't stopped there. There is still a political base to please, so now abortion opponents have moved onto a propaganda campaign—with 7.5 million dollars in funding for fake women's health centers in the state budget, Representative Becker's bill claiming that ectopic pregnancies can just simply be moved into the uterus (fact check: they can't), and now Senate Bills 155 and 208. All of these bills are based on lies and misinformation; and all of them put targets on the back of abortion providers and the patients they serve.

I cannot imagine being a patient, facing a medical crisis during pregnancy, and instead of having my doctor focused on what care is best for me and my individual circumstances and health history, they are concerned about whether the care they have determined is best would result in them going

to jail. Patients must be able to trust that their doctors are able to provide the best, compassionate, and individualized care, without interference from members of the Ohio legislature.

Once again, stop the lies, stop the stigma. NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio urges a no vote on Senate Bill 208