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Proponent Testimony on House Bill 378

House Health Committee

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Chair Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today on behalf of House Bill 378, the Abortion Pill Reversal Information Act. My name is Allie Frazier, and I am the Executive Director of Right to Life of Northeast Ohio. Right to Life of Northeast Ohio is a pro-life organization who seeks to protect innocent human life from conception to natural death, through human rights advocacy on issues such as abortion, euthanasia and assisted suicide. Today, however, I am here to advocate on behalf of a woman's right to informed consent during a chemical abortion.

The Abortion Pill Reversal Information Act is a vital informed consent bill which would ensure that doctors prescribing a Mifepristone chemical abortion also provide written information informing the patient of scientifically proven abortion reversal procedures in the event she changes her mind. This process is administered by over 1,000 medical professionals through the Abortion Pill Rescue Network and over 100 women per month chose to begin the APR process in hopes of reversing the chemical abortion process. Despite these strong numbers, many women are unaware of Abortion Pill Reversal, and many may have questions about it. When discussing Abortion Pill Reversal, two topics of discussion usually come up. 1. Is it safe? and 2. Does it work? I would like to take a few moments to address both of those questions directly.

When talking about the safety of the Abortion Pill Reversal protocol, it is helpful to explain how both a chemical abortion and the Abortion Pill Reversal process work. The crux of each is a chemical called progesterone. Progesterone is a naturally occurring hormone in a woman's body. If a woman becomes

pregnant, progesterone helps sustain the pregnancy. During a chemical abortion, the first drug in the regimen, called Mifepristone, blocks progesterone receptors. This destabilizes the uterine lining and kills the developing baby 24 to 72 hours later. If the woman then proceeds with the abortion process, she will take a second drug called Misoprostol which induces labor and empties the contents of her uterus through heavy bleeding. The abortion is now complete.

So how is it possible to reverse a chemical abortion? It's actually quite simple. The Abortion Pill Reversal Protocol involves administering progesterone after the woman has taken Mifepristone and before she has decided to take the second drug Misoprostol. This overpowers the progesterone blockers in Mifepristone and is successful in helping a woman sustain her pregnancy over 60% of the time. In fact, progesterone has been used to help safely sustain pregnancies in women who were at risk of miscarrying for over 50 years. It's simple, it's safe and it works.

Statistics show that over 3,000 babies have been born thanks Abortion Pill Reversal. Anyone who would argue that APR doesn't work must ignore the thousands of documented children who are alive and well thanks to their mother's ability to access this life-saving protocol. Additionally, children who are saved through APR don't have an increased birth defect rate but have a rate that is equal to the rate in the general population. Abortion Pill Reversal is an incredible second chance for women and babies.

As I have clearly laid out, the Abortion Pill Reversal process is a safe and effective option for women who change their minds during the chemical abortion process. Unfortunately, the abortion industry has done everything they can to attempt to discredit Abortion Pill Reversal and to strip women of their agency during a chemical abortion process. One such way that they have done this is by the Creinin Study, which sought to measure the effectiveness of the Abortion Pill Reversal Process but was canceled after only 25% of the women enrolled had participated. After it was suspended due to safety concerns, many in the media used the failed study as an opportunity to cast doubt on the safety and effectiveness of Abortion Pill Reversal. It is worth noting that this trial was done by Dr. Mitchell Creinin, an abortionist who has been a paid consultant with the manufacturer of the abortion pill, Danco Laboratories. This alone should give one pause about the motives of those involved.

I have personally gone the over this study. What media outlets fail to point out when discussing this study, was that the majority of reported severe complications came not from the women who were undergoing Abortion Pill Reversal, but rather those who had only taken the first abortion pill without progesterone. If anything, this study revealed what pro-life advocates have been asserting for years: that the abortion pill

is dangerous for women. My question would be this, who are we to believe? The failed experiment of a person who makes a living out of selling abortion pills or the thousands of women and babies who have experienced the Abortion Pill Reversal process and are alive and thriving?

At the end of the day, the Abortion Pill Reversal Information Act is about making sure that women know their options. Passing this critical legislation will empower women by strengthen their informed consent to the abortion process. It is difficult to comprehend why exactly the pro-choice side argues so ardently for a woman's right to choose abortion, but then proceeds to fight tooth and nail against her right to change her mind. I have sat and listened to previous opponent testimony on this bill during which pro-choice activists claimed that consent to a chemical abortion ended once a woman had taken the first pill. I don't know about you, but I was under the impression that consent is freely given, reversible and informed. Consent with caveats is just oppression with a good PR team.

We have all made decisions in our lives that we regret. Challenging situations and pressure from others often cause us to make decisions based out of fear rather than our belief in ourselves and our capacity to rise above our circumstances and to even thrive despite them. Abortion Pill Reversal gives women who regret beginning the chemical abortion process a second chance. A second chance for not just their child but for themselves.

Don't let rhetoric from an industry who profits from selling abortion pills make you lose sight of what's at stake here. Women deserve the right to change their minds. Women deserve to be informed. Women deserve access information about Abortion Pill Reversal.

I urge you to vote yes on House Bill 378, the Abortion Pill Reversal Information Act. Thank you and I'm happy to answer any questions.