

The Honorable Senator Kevin Bacon
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
1 Capitol Square, Ground Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

June 26, 2017

Dear Senator Bacon and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

As health care providers who care for the men, women, and families in Ohio, we strongly oppose Senate Bill 145. This bill would dictate how physicians should perform a safe, medically proven procedure and would irreparably compromise the patient-provider relationship.

By outlawing the standard D&E abortion procedure, this bill prevents Ohio physicians from providing individualized care based on each patient's unique needs and circumstances, a cornerstone of the patient-provider relationship. Every pregnancy, and every patient, is different; for many people, the alternatives to a standard D&E abortion are more medically complex, and can increase risks and side effects. This interference in the patient-provider relationship is dangerous, and could prevent patients from accessing critical care.

For these reasons, the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), the nation's leading group of physicians providing health care for women, opposes these bans, saying they "represent legislative interference at its worst: doctors will be forced, by ill-advised, unscientifically motivated policy, to provide lesser care to patients." ACOG further notes that "[m]edical decisions about reproductive health – especially given the complex circumstances that often accompany second trimester abortions – should be made by each individual woman in consultation with those she trusts most, including her ob-gyn – not politicians."

It is also alarming that this bill is not an outlier in Ohio; far from it. It is simply the latest in a series of at least 18 laws passed by Ohio politicians to restrict access to safe abortion since *Roe v. Wade*. The cumulative result of these laws is to shame and punish patients for making personal and private decisions about their families and their health and push safe and legal abortion out of reach for many in our state. These restrictions also have a disproportionate impact on those who already face far too many barriers to health care—people with low incomes, people of color, and people living in our state's rural areas.

We further urge you to consider that similar laws have been deemed likely to be unconstitutional in both state and federal courts. It is our view that passing this bill could lead to costly litigation that wastes state resources better spent improving the lives of Ohioans—not on enacting medically unsound restrictions on patient care.

As healthcare providers, we know that we best serve our patients when we give them the information and tools that allow them to make the best decisions for their health and the well-being of their families. We believe firmly that a patient's health—and not politics—should drive important medical decisions as a pregnancy progresses.

We therefore urge you to reject Senate Bill 145.

Sincerely,

Abigail Lowther, MD
Columbus, OH

Adarsh E. Krishen, MD, MMM
Akron, OH

Angelina Gangestad, MD
University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center
Cleveland, OH

Anita Somani, MD
President, Columbus Medical Association
Columbus, OH

Bindu Sehgal, MD
American Academy of Family Physicians
Westlake, OH

Casey Moothart, MD
Cincinnati, OH

Catherine Romanos, MD
Columbus, OH

Cheryl E Weinstein, MD FACP
Shaker Heights, OH

Colin McCluney, MD
Columbus, OH

Dana Lee, MD Candidate
The Ohio State University College of Medicine
Columbus, OH

Daniel A. Medalie, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Case Western
Reserve Medical School
Cleveland, OH

Elise Berlan, MD MPH
Nationwide Children's Hospital
The Ohio State University College of Medicine
Columbus, OH

Ellie S. Ragsdale, MD
University Hospitals of Cleveland Medical
Center
Cleveland, OH

Emily Daggett, MD Candidate
Case Western Reserve University School of
Medicine
Cleveland, OH

Erica Nunez, RN
Columbus, OH

Erin Olah, MD
Columbus, OH

Gloria Tavera, MD/PhD Candidate
Cleveland, OH

Janelle Evans, MD FACOG
Cincinnati, Ohio

Jaswant Madhavan, MD
Columbus, OH

Joan Lederer, MD
Cleveland Heights, OH

Justin Lappen, MD
Cleveland, OH

Katherine Rivlin, MD MS
Columbus, OH

Kelly Hynes, OMS II
Athens, OH

Kimberly Gecki, MD
Cleveland, OH

Krishan Chandar, MD
Case Western Reserve University
Solon, OH

Kristin M. Foley, MD
Bexley, OH

Kristin Huntoon, PhD DO
Columbus, OH

Lisa Keder, MD MPH
The Ohio State University
Columbus, OH

Madhuri Kurup, MD
Columbus, OH

Marjorie Greenfield, MD
Cleveland, OH

Mary Friend, RN
Columbus OH

Meaghan Combs MD MPH
Metrohealth
Cleveland, OH

Monique Yoder Katsuki, MD
Cleveland Clinic
Cleveland, OH

Natalie Hinchcliffe, DO
Metrohealth
Cleveland, OH

Nikhil Krishnan, MD Candidate
Case Western Reserve University
Cleveland, OH

Patricia Blochowiak, MD
East Cleveland, OH

Patricia Kellner, MD
South Euclid, OH

Rebecca Rudesill, MD
Columbus, OH

Rosemary Claire Roden, MD
Columbus, OH

Roslyn Kade, MD
Planned Parenthood Southwest Ohio Region
Cincinnati, OH

Roya L Rezaee, MD
University Hospitals of Cleveland Medical
Center
Pepper Pike, OH

Sanjay Sridaran, MD Candidate
Case Western Reserve University
Cleveland, OH

Sapna Kalsy, MD
Cincinnati, OH

Sara Allen, DO
OhioHealth
Westerville, OH

Sharon Liner, MD
Cincinnati, OH

Victoria Byrd, MD Candidate
Case Western Reserve University
Shaker Heights, OH

William Sawyer, MD
Cincinnati, Ohio