

Ohio House of Representatives



**State Representative
Kristina Daley Roegner
Sponsor Testimony
House Bill 78
February 16, 2011**

Chairman Wachtmann, members of the Health and Aging Committee, thank you for this opportunity to give sponsor testimony for HB78. So many bills can be measured in economic impact; measured in dollars. HB78 we can measure in lives:

According to the Ohio Department of Health: The number of babies aborted in Ohio after 20 weeks of gestation or older:

2006 – 694 babies aborted
2007 – 690 babies aborted
2008 – 603 babies aborted
2009 – 613 babies aborted

So just in the last 4 years: 2600 babies were aborted after 20 weeks. Their lives prematurely and unjustly ended. Now you might ask, why? Why were these babies aborted?

- Is it due to fetal abnormalities? – No, only 2% of late term abortions were documented to have fetal abnormalities
- Was the mother's life at risk? – No, There were no documented cases in Ohio in the last couple years where the mother's health was listed as anything except "good"

In fact, let's talk about the mother.

Not only does this bill save babies lives, it also benefits the health of the mother:

- Post viability abortion is more dangerous for a woman than childbirth: A recent study by the Center for Disease Control showed that the mortality rate for live birth is LOWER than for abortion after 20 weeks¹

¹ ("Consequences to Women's Health of Late Term Abortion", Priscilla K. Coleman, PhD. Associate Professor of Human Development and Family Studies, Bowling Green State University, The Human Family Research Center, 10/15/2010)

The point is: These ARE babies even that early on in the pregnancy. Babies, who can grow up, contribute to society, become mothers, sisters, brothers, or fathers themselves someday. These babies are people. Yes, fragile and quite vulnerable at this early stage, but they are people, they are lives deserving of protection.

We talk about protecting the innocent, for caring for the most vulnerable. A baby still in the womb is without question the most innocent and the most vulnerable. These babies, who are viable, deserve a chance to live - a chance for a future.

I am honored to joint sponsor this bill with Representative Uecker and would welcome any questions.