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*Advocating for Life, Faith, and Freedom in the Public Square*

TO: Members of the Senate Health, Human Services, and Medicaid Committee

FROM: Chris Long  
President, Ohio Christian Alliance

RE: S.B. 23 Proponent Testimony

I would like to thank Chairman Burke and members of the Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee for accepting our testimony today in support of S.B. 23, Ohio's Heartbeat Bill. The Ohio Christian Alliance is a public policy, pro-life, pro-family, religious liberty organization.

Over the past twenty years, the Ohio Christian Alliance has supported pro-life legislation ranging from adoption support to restriction on abortion. Forty-five years have passed since the U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion on demand in all fifty states. That decision struck down many existing state laws that restricted abortion or had banned it outright. In the years following that terrible decision by the U.S. Supreme Court, the view of child rearing and the nuclear family has suffered great loss.

When the U.S. Supreme Court removed the protections of the unborn child, it unleashed a hellish onslaught against marriage, child rearing and the family structure itself. Ohioans have suffered gravely over the years. This committee has already heard and read the testimonies of post abortive women who suffer to this day the affects of their abortions. Experts will argue back and forth whether this legislation will withstand a judicial challenge. Whether or not the courts will deem S.B. 23 judicially sound law should not be the determining factor of the decision by this committee. This committee must determine what is in the best interest of the people of Ohio and the protection and value of human life.

The debate will continue as to when life in the womb is viable, but the simplest member of our society understands that if a heart is beating, that is life, and it should not be ended. It could be said that the first voice that God gives the unborn child in the womb is a beating heart, one which the doctor, the mother, and anyone with a listening device can now determine – "There's the heartbeat. I hear it."

The Ohio Christian Alliance would like to commend Senator Roegner and the nineteen co-sponsors for their support of this legislation. We urge this committee to support with their vote S. B. 23, Ohio's Heartbeat Bill.

Thank you, Chairman Burke and members of this distinguished committee.

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