



Representative Emilia Strong Sykes
Minority Leader
34th House District

December 16, 2021

Governor Mike DeWine
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor DeWine:

On behalf of the Ohio House Democratic Caucus and the approximately 4.5 million Ohioans we represent, I urge you to use your executive powers to veto Substitute Senate Bill 157, a bill that threatens the health, safety and security of patients during pregnancy and unduly restricts access to abortion care in Ohio.

Sub. Senate Bill 157 puts the lives of patients in danger by interfering with their ability to consult with their physicians and make appropriate medical decisions during pregnancy. Every pregnancy is different, and patients should be free to make health decisions that are best for them. SB 157, however, infringes on these freedoms and creates unnecessary interference when medical crisis occurs.

Further, doctors and other medical professionals already have an obligation through current federal and state law to provide appropriate life-saving medical care in the end-of-life situations discussed in Sub. S.B. 157. This bill is redundant and unnecessary.

Sub. S.B. 157 also threatens access to abortion care across the state due to an added provision that would change the way ambulatory surgical facility licenses are governed by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). The extreme restrictions places the variances for some abortion clinics at risk, particularly in southwest Ohio, where Cincinnati could become the largest metropolitan area in the country without an abortion clinic. This bill criminalizes care, threatens the health and safety of patients and families, and is a major step back for personal and medical freedom for all Ohioans.

Sub. S.B. 157 is a dangerous and unnecessary piece of legislation. It creates a harmful stigma surrounding individuals who have abortions and the doctors who care for them. It criminalizes care and inserts the legislature between patients and their doctors during a time when the focus should solely be on an individual's personal care. It should be vetoed.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emilia Strong Sykes".

Emilia Strong Sykes
Minority Leader
Ohio House District 34