



Center FOR Christian Virtue

Public Policy. Engagement. Education.

To: Chair Bob Peterson
Vice Chair Jim Thomas
Ranking Member Latyna Humphrey
House Government Oversight Committee

November 12, 2024

Re: Support for HB475

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chairman Thomas, Ranking Member Humphrey, and members of the House Government Oversight Committee,

My name is Nilani Jawahar and I am here on behalf of the Center for Christian Virtue, Ohio's largest Christian public policy organization, to testify in support of House Bill 475 which aims to ensure that no taxpayer dollars in the state are directed to fund elective abortions.

This legislation is simple—counties and municipalities may spend their money as they please, but if they receive state funds for a specific purpose and they choose to spend it funding elective procedures, they are demonstrating to the state that they do not need that money, and therefore the state has a right to withhold it and direct it to where it may be put to better use.

Furthermore, the way we spend our tax money is a reflection of what's important to us. The Ohio Revised Code states that "it is the public policy of the state of Ohio to prefer childbirth over abortion to the extent that is constitutionally permissible."¹ This is because it is the vested interest of the state to encourage family formation and to protect the lives of all people, especially the most vulnerable—which are children. Pregnancy, childbirth, and motherhood can be challenging things—which is why we must walk alongside women as they go through these challenges and give them the resources and community they need, instead of abandoning them to abortion.

I'd like to thank Representative Williams for sponsoring this bill, Chairman Peterson for giving it hearings, and the committee for taking the time to listen. I encourage you to please support this common sense legislation, and I'm happy to take questions.

The Center for Christian Virtue (CCV) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that endeavors to create an Ohio where God's blessings of life, family, and religious freedom are treasured, respected, and protected. www.ccv.org -- (513) 733-5775

¹ ORC Section 9.041