

April 2nd, 2024

The Honorable Sherrod Brown

U.S. Senator for Ohio

Dear Member of Congress,

My name is Emily Litz, and I am a student at Firelands Regional Medical Center School of Nursing. I am writing to you about Issue 1 regarding abortion rights being enshrined in Ohio's state constitution. Under this new issue, physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants remain fearful under the advisement of the law that was passed supporting women's reproductive health. Under this issue, there are zero statues protecting physicians and other health care providers from having their licensed legally challenged when performing abortion services to female, cis-gender, transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming clients. Under the current issue, republican cohorts have stated that original statutes will remain in place under the new provision unless they're legally challenged. These provisions like forcing clients to wait a 24-hour period before they can access an abortion procedure, ultrasound heart-beat detection, and counseling all remain a current barrier for clients to obtain equal access to female reproductive services.

This remains a consistent issue as I complete my nursing program, as we've learned the discrepancies in women's health care, and the amount of information that is left unknown. This remains a current issue as past clinical trials on pain management, pharmaceutical therapies, and chronic disease were tested with a majority male population. This effectively left clinical trials skewed in neglecting an entire population. This supports the current issues that women face today in their challenges of not only being taken seriously in the healthcare setting, but the emphasis on the barriers unnecessary to exist in modern day healthcare. From this letter, I hope to find support in my democratic superiors to help form legislation in protective provisions for healthcare providers and clients seeking abortion services without penalty. Not only would this eliminate the fear of threats from legal action, but this would also promote a higher standard of care for clients seeking these services.

As we know, a higher standard of care is conducive to higher patient satisfaction rates, and overall lower patient mortality rates. After the overturn of Roe V. Wade, many patients have had to resort to extensive travels, costly pharmaceutical treatments not covered by insurance, and healthcare discrimination involving people of color and minority communities continuously forsaken in their efforts to achieve proper access to reproductive healthcare. With these protective provisions, this will prompt physicians and patients to make singular, health advised decisions. In my efforts I would hope to gain the attention of you and other Democratic leaders to gain movement in your possible coalition. I appreciate your taking time in my ideals for state legislation.

Sincerely,

Emily Litz

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