



Last year, Idaho's law met a similar fate from the Ninth Circuit when it upheld a lower court's ruling against that state's law.

Because SB 127 seeks to replace the viability standard the Supreme Court of the United States has declined to change for nearly 43 years, and it has much in common with the recently passed HB 493 and the attached six-week ban. While the ban dates differ between the two bills, the goal is identical.

### SCARING MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

Legislation like SB 127 has another clear purpose. Like past and present legislation in Ohio, this bill introduces additional vague and unclear language to state law that will only cause unneeded confusion and criminalization of doctors and other medical professionals.

Under SB 127, a violation of the 20-week ban can be a fourth degree felony and a mandatory license suspension for a doctor. If a doctor does think an abortion fits into one of the narrow exceptions, she must have a second doctor present for the procedure and yet another unknown physician, who is not required to be present at the procedure, sign off on the medical necessity of the abortion. She must also ensure the facility has "appropriate neonatal services for premature infants." How is it determined whether the neonatal services are "appropriate?" Who is responsible for finding the second doctor to sign off on the abortion? Who decides whether that second doctor is an acceptable signer? What are the ramifications if someone somewhere deems one or any of these requirements insufficient?

The broad and uncertain language found in these restrictions is part of a deliberate trend in Ohio and elsewhere to interfere with a woman's health decisions during her pregnancy, shut down clinics, and make the process of obtaining an abortion exceedingly difficult by increasing political barriers.

### THE EFFECT ON WOMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES

Every woman's circumstances are different. However we feel about abortion at different points in a pregnancy, we should agree that these decisions are best made by a woman, in consultation with her doctor and family. We know a significant number of abortions that occur 20 weeks or after are related to women's physical health. We also know some are related to serious and irreversible fetal anomalies, rape, incest and mental health concerns. SB 127 makes exceptions for none but the mother's physical health. Passage of SB 127 will ensure these abortions are complicated and performed under a cloud of uncertainty and intimidation.

Once, again, SB 127 finds politicians with ever more control of intensely private and personal decisions, replacing the care and expertise of doctors, the counsel of clergy, and the determinations of women and their loved ones. We urge the members of this committee to reject this risky and unneeded bill.