Women's Fund of Central Ohio

831 Goodale Blvd, Grandview Heights, OH 43212
614-225-9926 | www.womensfundcentralohio.org

March 2, 2026
Ohio House Health Committee
RE: House Bill 347- Opponent Testimony

Chair Schmidt, Vice Chair Deeter, Ranking-Member Somani, and members of the House Health Committee:

The Women's Fund of Central Ohio opposes House Bill 347 and any attempt to place undue burdens or restrictions on an individual's right to make personal reproductive decisions. This piece of legislation is an attempt to enact Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers, better known as a TRAP law, and would reinstate Ohio's 24-hour waiting period for abortion care. This would be in direct conflict with Ohio's Constitution Amendment, The Right to Reproductive Freedom with Protections for Health and Safety.

In 2024, reproductive justice advocates sought a permanent injunction against a law that forced abortion patients to wait 24 hours before receiving care. Franklin County Court of Common Pleas Judge David Young found that the law was unconstitutional because of the burden placed on patients seeking abortion care (Ohio Bar Staff, 2024). This case is still pending.

The introduction of House Bill 347 is a continued attempt to impose unlawful abortion restrictions. The implementation of 24-hour waiting periods, along with the requirement to provide state-mandated information to abortion patients, does not improve patients' health or serve a valid medical purpose. Such "cooling-off" periods create logistical and financial obstacles that disproportionately affect rural women who may lack access to reproductive healthcare in their area, as well as low-income women, unaccompanied homeless youth, and women of color. In addition to the high costs associated with receiving medical care, patients may face lost wages and unexpected childcare expenses. These challenges can lead to increased debt and financial instability.

Furthermore, House Bill 347 would be restrictive for some abortion patients due to travel and lodging costs. As of November 2025, 24 Ohio counties lack an OB-GYN, creating significant maternity care deserts (Henry, 2025). These counties, largely rural, lack comprehensive reproductive services, forcing residents to travel for access to healthcare. A mandatory two-trip requirement means doubling transportation expenses, and if necessary, paying for lodging.

In comparison to men in the state of Ohio, women are more likely to be caregivers, have lower wages, and experience greater difficulty paying down medical debt (Women's Fund of Central Ohio, 2025). The Women's Fund of Central Ohio stands firm in our belief that our community can address the barriers that prevent women from building wealth and having the freedom to make their own decisions about their lives. House Bill 347 is not pro-women, not pro-health, not pro-wealth-building, and not pro-freedom. House Bill 347 is meant to restrict, not promote, an individual's autonomy. For these reasons, we urge this committee to oppose House Bill 347. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Arielle Scott, MPA
Programs Manager- Research, Grantmaking, and Advocacy

Women's Fund of Central Ohio

831 Goodale Blvd, Grandview Heights, OH 43212
614-225-9926 | www.womensfundcentralohio.org

References

Henry, M. (2025, November 26). What happens is people don't get care.' Ohio has 24 counties without an OB-GYN, according to KFF. *Ohio Capital Journal*. https://ohiocapitaljournal.com/2025/11/26/what-happens-is-people-dont-get-care-ohio-has-24-counties-without-an-ob-gyn-according-to-kff/

Ohio Bar Staff. (2024, August 30). Ohio bar weekly legislative report: Judge halts Ohio abortion waiting period, supreme court ruling court shorten regulatory review. *Ohio Bar Weekly Legislative Report*. https://www.ohiobar.org/advocacy/2024-weekly-reports/ohio-bar-weekly-legislative-report-judge-halts-ohio-abortion-waiting-period-supreme-court-ruling-court-shorten-regulatory-review

Women's Fund of Central Ohio. (2025). Making women wealthy and free. https://issuu.com/womensfundcentralohio/docs/making_women_wealthy_and_free