

[Protecting the Dignity of Unborn Children Act](#)

"We have a responsibility to identify where our laws are failing to protect the dignity of life and to take action."
Congressman Pat Tiberi

Background:

Since the House launched the investigation last summer into the horrific practices of our nation's abortion providers, we remain committed to getting the facts and examining where federal laws, and the poor enforcement of federal laws, are failing to protect the dignity of life.

A state level investigation into abortion providers in Ohio revealed that some organizations had disposed of aborted fetal remains in Kentucky and Ohio landfills after completing a high-pressure steam treatment to exterminate infectious material. Ohio Administrative Code 3701-47-05 requires that a "fetus shall be disposed of in a humane manner," but a specific definition of "humane" or process is absent in Ohio law.

Ohio lawmakers have taken action on this matter; two bills have been introduced in the Ohio House of Representatives. H.B. 419 would require that aborted fetal remains be disposed of through cremation, burial, or an approved hospital-type of incineration. Additionally, H.B. 417 would require women receiving an abortion to choose such form of disposal. The Ohio House Health and Aging Committee held a hearing on these bills on January 20, 2016.

Ohio Representative Robert McColley, sponsor of H.B. 417, reiterated that "this legislation does not in any way reduce or prevent a woman's access to getting an abortion, nor does it apply to miscarriages. Instead the goal of this legislation is to strengthen Ohio's laws on informed consent and make Ohio law concerning the disposal of fetal remains more specific."

Federal Action:

Currently, there is no federal punishment for abortion providers who dispose of fetal remains in landfills. State laws vary, and in order to prevent ambiguity, Congressman Tiberi introduced the Protecting the Dignity of Unborn Children Act to make it a federal crime to dispose of unborn children in landfills and waterways. Establishing this federal baseline does not interfere with states and their regulations on waste disposal or pro-life initiatives.

This bill is about taking steps to affirm the dignity of life. For far too long, Planned Parenthood and abortion providers have hidden their horrific and inhumane practices by hiding behind ambiguous laws and political rhetoric. The gruesome practice of labeling unborn children as medical waste and disposing of them in landfills should not continue.

Support:

Congressman Tiberi is proud to have the support of the Ohio Right to Life and Susan B. Anthony list.

"It is unconscionable that the abortion industry is sending children's bodies to landfills," said Stephanie Ranade Krider, executive director of Ohio Right to Life. "No human person belongs in the trash. We thank Congressman Tiberi for taking swift and compassionate action to protect the dignity of our country's unborn children."

Susan B. Anthony List said the following: "This legislation provides an important step in protecting the human dignity of victims of abortion, and preventing future abuses by abortion providers."

Original Co-Sponsors: Rep. Chris Smith (R-N.J.), Rep. Steve Chabot (R-Ohio), Rep. Bob Gibbs (R-Ohio), Rep. Bill Johnson (R-Ohio), Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio), Rep. Dave Joyce (R-Ohio), Rep. Bob Latta (R-Ohio), Rep. Jim Renacci (R-Ohio), Rep. Steve Stivers (R-Ohio), Rep. Mike Turner (R-Ohio), Rep. Brad Wenstrup (R-Ohio).