

## **Show respect**

House Bill 125, the heartbeat bill, would allow the state government to intrude into the most personal decision a woman makes in her life: the decision to carry a pregnancy to term. To allow the government to dictate these decisions is one of the most egregious violations of individual rights imaginable.

Ohio women deserve to protect their own health and safety as they contemplate continuing or ending their pregnancies. Women who need medical treatment for cancer, schizophrenia or debilitating pain, which can lead to severe fetal abnormalities, should not be forced to continue a pregnancy.

A woman who has suffered a rape should not be forced to continue a pregnancy. In fact, this bill is such a violation of women's rights that a prominent Ohio anti-choice organization opposes it.

The Senate Health, Human Services and Aging Committee began hearings on H.B. 125 this week. Ohio senators need to set aside their ideological blindness, demonstrate respect for Ohio women and reject H.B. 125.

**Denise C. Woods**

Bath Township