

Dear Pro-Life Partners:

July 1, 2024

When Roe was overturned, the left went a little rabid. Understandably so. After all, a major pillar of their ideology had just toppled. With righteous indignation, they declared the pro-life movement too extreme because we dared to fight for the lives of all babies at all times (the nerve of us!). They painted us as narrow-minded Bible thumpers who hate women. Their response was to push for their own brand of extremism...abortion at any time, for any reason, despite the negative physical, mental, and emotional impact it has had and will have on millions of women...the women they claim to want to protect.

Abortion advocates mobilized and put together the “The Right to Reproductive Freedom” Initiative. In 2024, they paid hundreds (thousands?) to collect signatures to get an amendment on the ballot that would enshrine abortion “rights” into our state constitution.

- The most honest signature gatherers let passersby know that the petition addressed reproductive rights, in itself a misnomer. (And this was the *most* honest!)
- Others misrepresented themselves as “pro-life” or claimed the petition addressed women’s health, citing rare anomalies (ectopic pregnancy) or using misinformation (lack of miscarriage care) to bolster their case.
- Others blatantly lied about what the petition was for, luring many into signing something under false pretenses.

On May 3, over 380,000 signatures were turned in for review. This is twice as many than needed, but keep in mind it’s not about an overall total. Several regions need to reach certain thresholds for the petition to pass. Currently, signatures are being reviewed for duplicates, etc. to determine how many are invalid and how many will stand. A special committee has convened, and we should know by the end of July. If the petition is deemed legitimate, this proposed amendment will be on our state ballot in the November election.

Alarmingly, this particular amendment is just piece of the puzzle. What abortion advocates are pushing for is what Ryan Bomberger of The Radiance Foundation calls Roe 2.0. The left is genius at having a projected goal and getting there in small steps...a little bit at a time, until they reach their endgame, and then we realize how horrifying their agenda really is. This is acutely true when it comes to abortion. When the left talks about “codifying Roe,” this is what they actually mean:

- Zero limits on abortion through entire pregnancy
- Zero laws to save unborn life
- Zero laws to inform women (e.g. Women’s Right to Know Bills)
- Zero conscience rights for medical professionals
- Zero accountability for abortionists
- Zero opposition from taxpayers forced to fund it
- Zero pregnancy centers

*It is mind-boggling how the people of choice want to bully us into submission—no abortion alternative allowed. Our response must be to have zero tolerance for their political propaganda and hostility toward the most marginalized human beings. To do this we need to engage often, speak boldly, and pray daily. To that end, I have attached a “Prayer to Stop the Extreme Abortion Ballot Initiative” by Frank Pavone of Priests for Life.*

I understand that it would be easy to become overwhelmed with so much information swirling about and so much on the line. So here is a simple two-part homework assignment for you that may ease the stress a bit!

- Rather than feel the need to know all the rebuttals and all the answers, simply **memorize the following summary that encapsulates the ramifications of this amendment beautifully.**

*“What we are facing now in Missouri is pure evil: unlimited abortion on girls of any age—including late-term abortions—without parental consent, with taxpayer money, by non-medical people, with no recourse for women who are injured.” (Pam Fichter, Easter Region Chairwoman)*

- **Share this information with your pastor** (visit the [mrl-wr.org](http://mrl-wr.org) home page for a link to handouts) and ask him to address this issue with his congregation. Sure, it may be passing the baton a bit, but who better to pass the baton to than someone with a weekly captive audience!

Friends, we’ve got this. There is strength in numbers, yes, but there is more strength in the truth.

Partnering with You for Life,

Linda Verhulst, MRL-WR