

WHERE DOES IT SAY THAT?



THIS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT...

THREATENS PARENTAL RIGHTS

By using “individual” instead of adult or woman, anyone under the age of 18 could have an abortion or make any other reproductive decision without their parents’ consent or notification.

PUTS WOMEN AT RISK

Current Ohio laws* require abortion providers to explain procedure risks and ensure access to hospital transfer if needed. These health and safety standards could be seen as a “burden” and be eliminated, making it even less safe for women seeking an abortion.

ALLOWS ABORTIONS THROUGH 9 MONTHS OF PREGNANCY

In U.S. law,** “health” includes age or physical, emotional, or psychological well-being. This means a woman’s age or emotional health could be cited to justify aborting a full-term baby. An abortion-providing physician would decide when a baby could survive outside the womb, leaving no clear protections for preborn children.

IS MISLEADING

Referring to “miscarriage care” promotes a myth that a “right to abortion” is necessary to preserve care for miscarriages and ectopic pregnancies. This is false. Catholic hospitals have always provided comprehensive miscarriage care and will continue to do so regardless of the outcome of this vote.

ARTICLE I, SECTION 22

*The Right to Reproductive Freedom
with Protections for Health and Safety*

1. Every individual has a right to make and carry out one’s own reproductive decisions, including but not limited to decisions on contraception, fertility treatment, continuing one’s own pregnancy, miscarriage care, and abortion.
2. The State shall not, directly or indirectly, burden, penalize, prohibit, interfere with, or discriminate against either an individual’s voluntary exercise of this right or a person or entity that assists an individual exercising this right, unless the State demonstrates that it is using the least restrictive means to advance the individual’s health in accordance with widely accepted and evidence-based standards of care.
3. However, abortion may be prohibited after fetal viability. But in no case may such an abortion be prohibited if in the professional judgment of the pregnant patient’s treating physician it is necessary to protect the pregnant patient’s life or health.
4. As used in this Section, “Fetal viability” means “the point in a pregnancy when, in the professional judgment of the pregnant patient’s treating physician, the fetus has a significant likelihood of survival outside the uterus with reasonable measures. This is determined on a case-by-case basis”; and “State” includes any governmental entity and political subdivision.
5. This Section is self-executing.

* Ohio Revised Code, Sections 2317.56 & 3702.303

** Based on Doe v. Bolton

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ABOUT ISSUE 1



What is Issue 1?

Issue 1 is a proposed amendment to the Ohio Constitution that would endanger the health and safety of women, threaten parental rights, and allow for abortion through all nine months of pregnancy. Ohioans will vote on November 7, 2023, whether to make this change to the Ohio Constitution.

What would Issue 1 do?

Put women at risk:

- **Health and safety standards in Ohio could be eliminated.** Doctors could no longer need to examine a woman or explain the risks of the abortion procedure ahead of time.

Threaten parental rights:

- **A fifteen-year-old could have an abortion without her parents knowing.** Current Ohio law requires parental notification and consent before a child under 18 can obtain an abortion. These parental right protections could be removed as they directly conflict with the amendment which would allow all individuals, including minors, to make their own reproductive decisions.

Allow for abortions of fully formed babies:

- **Abortion would be legal through all 9 months of pregnancy.** Physicians at an abortion clinic could use a woman's age or emotional well-being as a reason to perform an abortion in the 3rd trimester.

See "[Where Does it Say That?](#)" for specific information.

Would abortion be illegal in Ohio if Issue 1 does not pass?

If Issue 1 does not pass, abortion would still be legal in Ohio until a baby's heartbeat can be detected. This standard was challenged in court and placed on hold, allowing for abortions up to 22 weeks as of September 15, 2023. Current laws that protect the safety of women and parental rights would stay in effect.

Doesn't Issue 1 simply restore Ohio back to when Roe v. Wade was in effect?

Issue 1 goes dangerously beyond what was legalized in the Roe v. Wade ruling. It opens the door to remove important health and safety measures that protect women, threatens parental consent and notification of any minor seeking an abortion, and allows for abortion through all nine months of pregnancy.

Paid for by: Catholic Conference of Ohio

Will miscarriage care or ectopic pregnancy treatment be denied if Issue 1 fails?

The passing or failure of Issue 1 will have no effect on the care a pregnant woman receives when her life is in danger, even if the treatment results in the loss of life of her unborn child. There is a fundamental difference between an elective abortion and the care provided after a miscarriage or for ectopic pregnancies. Women can always receive life-saving treatment, including in Catholic hospitals. No law restricts this care in Ohio or any other state in the country.

How is the Church helping pregnant women in need?

For decades, numerous Catholic social service agencies, in collaboration with faith-based and secular organizations, have assisted pregnant women in need with material resources and personal accompaniment during pregnancy and after their child is born. Project Rachel helps those struggling post-abortion. Every woman should be able to depend upon a community for support and the Catholic Church remains committed to woman in need.

Learn more: ohiocathconf.org

What is the Church doing to protect life and defeat Issue 1?

Each diocese in Ohio is working together, through the Catholic Conference of Ohio, to help Catholics understand the dangers of Issue 1 to women, parents, and life. We are also part of the Protect Women Ohio coalition to let all voters know Issue 1 is harmful for Ohioans.

What can I do to help defeat Issue 1?

1. PRAY & Fast
2. EDUCATE Yourself and TELL OTHERS about the dangers of Issue 1
3. Register & VOTE NO on Issue 1

Where can I learn more?

Read the full text of the proposed change to the Ohio Constitution and learn about the concerning language that puts women at risk, threatens parental rights, and allows for abortions through all nine months of pregnancy:



Visit voteohio.gov for voting details



Learn more about Issue 1 at:
www.ohiocathconf.org/protect