

Dear Pastor:

“Reproductive freedom” is the rallying cry of those dissatisfied with the Supreme Court’s ruling to overturn Roe v. Wade. I am prompted to call your attention to the current attempt to take “reproductive freedom” well beyond the topic of abortion in Vermont. It’s happening specifically with Proposal 5, which is on the November 8, 2022 ballot.

Vermont Proposal 5 would amend the Vermont Constitution to prohibit the state from denying or interfering with an individual’s “reproductive freedom,” which would include abortion and make it more challenging for lawmakers to implement any further restrictions or bans on abortion.

A **“yes” vote** would support amending the state constitution to provide a broad individual right to reproductive autonomy (including abortion).

A **“no” vote** would oppose amending the state constitution to provide a broad individual right to reproductive autonomy (including abortion).

If passed, **this measure will enshrine abortion up to the moment of birth as a constitutional right in Vermont and leave room for some of the most egregious human acts:**

- Abortion on demand for any reason, at any time, up to the moment of birth.
- No ability for the state legislature to pass laws to regulate or restrict abortion.
- Children left to die on the table after a botched abortion.
- Women left vulnerable to coerced abortion.

If not bad enough, this proposed amendment goes beyond abortion in the promotion of “reproductive freedom.” Proposal 5 is indeed opening the door to policies of serious concern that would forever change the culture of our nation.

- Because this Constitutional Amendment references individuals, the “rights” bestowed are not limited to adult individuals. The “reproductive freedom” language could turn current sexual felonies involving minors into matters of personal choice. What is now illegal as statutory rape could be perfectly legal.
- Parental consent requirements for birth control, abortion, hormone blockers, and “gender reassignment” surgeries causing permanent sterilization would be prohibited because minors would have the legal capacity to “consent.”
- Schools, clubs, fraternal or social welfare agencies, and other organizations, which follow the teachings of Moses or Jesus, would be violating their state’s public policy if they refuse to support this radical sexual “freedom.” In the future, state legislators would be bound by Vermont’s “Reproductive Freedom Constitutional Amendment,” preventing them from passing legislation violating Vermont’s Constitution.

Pastor, every church in Vermont needs to understand what’s at stake this November.

Here are two things the authors of this measure are not telling you.

First, they don't want to protect babies or stand for parental rights, and they don't want laws that would require them to do so. This amendment would prohibit Vermont state legislators from enacting laws to stop their progressive and ungodly agenda.

Second, they have devised a plan similar to their attack on the sanctity of marriage, to chip away at our right to protect the unborn. If successful in Vermont, their efforts will be duplicated across the nation in other states. The attacks from the progressive agenda will rip America of safe places for the unborn and our youth.

Your congregation takes to heart what you share from your pulpit, so I implore you today to inform your congregation of the dangers of Proposal 5 and to encourage them to vote. We need Christians from every church in Vermont to stand united for the protection of all human life – at every stage of development. Together we can expose the lies of the enemy and stop the shedding of innocent blood.

Psalm 139:13 teaches that God is the One who “knits our bodies together in our mother’s womb.” Christ also said, “Whatever you do for the least of these, you do for me.”

Below are some helpful talking points to reference as you address your congregation:

- This amendment doesn't stop at just abortion. Hidden in its broad language is the open door for a minor to have an abortion, get birth control, consent to relations with an adult, and even decide to surgically remove their breasts without a parent's knowledge or consent.
- This amendment fails to protect minors and allow parental involvement in the well-being and medical care of their children.
- Children under the age of 18 would easily be able to obtain an abortion without parental consent.
- Proposal 5 has no gestational limits on abortion and no regulations on abortion clinics.
- Unborn babies are human beings possessing inherent and inalienable rights that are entitled to the full protection of the law.
- Proposal 5 does not require counseling, ultrasounds, or waiting periods prior to abortions.
- Religious institutions which resist “Reproductive Freedom for Individuals” could face non-compliance lawsuits, revocation of agency and professional licenses, withdrawal of tax-exempt status, loss of state contracts, draconian regulations, and mandated employee qualifications – all designed to force Christians to comply with the immoral requirements of the “Reproductive Freedom Amendment.”

Now more than ever before, we need Christians to make sure they are registered and voting in this election. We must stop Proposal 5 and sound the alarm across the nation: the abortion industry is not just after our unborn, they are after the hearts and minds of our youth.

In Christ,



Jason Yates

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