



Dear Pro-Life Supporters:

On Wednesday, Protect Our Rights **abortion advocates released their ballot initiative language**, which would **enshrine a right to abortion until birth** in our Nebraska Constitution.

The petition language is as follows:

“All persons shall have a fundamental right to abortion until fetal viability, or when needed to protect the life or health of the pregnant patient, without interference from the state or its political subdivisions. Fetal viability means the point in pregnancy when, in the professional judgment of the patient’s treating health care practitioner, there is a significant likelihood of the fetus’ sustained survival outside the uterus without the application of extraordinary medical measures.”

The amendment would allow for:

• **Abortion throughout the entire pregnancy**

The amendment leaves post-viability abortion for "health" of the mother **to the discretion of the abortionist**. Without defining "health," courts have found that it can be based on non-medical factors, including mental, spiritual, financial or familial health. Furthermore, viability is defined as being based solely on the abortionist's judgment and would not include any baby who needs "extraordinary medical measures," which could be as simple as a short stay in the NICU.

• **The elimination of health and safety protections for women**

Language on the fundamental right to abortion "without interference from the state" **puts all of Nebraska's medical safeguards at risk**. This includes obtaining informed consent and performing a medical screening, seeing a physician in person or even seeing a medical professional at all. It would allow pills to be sold through the mail by people with no medical background.

• **The evisceration of parental rights**

By using the words "all persons" in the amendment, this will mean **parents will not have any ability to consent or even know if their minor daughter seeks an abortion**. They may also have no recourse if their daughter is harmed during the abortion. And in fact, parents WILL have financial liability for any follow-up physical and/or mental care their minor daughter may require post-abortion.

This is an orchestrated **attempt to mislead Nebraskans** into thinking this is a “reasonable” measure, but the reality is that this initiative is **abortion-on-demand, up until the birth of a baby**. This should be rejected by the Nebraska voter.

Nebraska’s current law allows for abortion throughout the first 12 weeks of pregnancy with exceptions for rape, incest, life of the mother and medical emergencies. Nebraska statistical data indicates 90% of abortions are performed before 12 weeks gestation. This ballot measure is

entirely pro-abortion and it **does not reflect the values of Nebraskans. Governor Jim Pillen released a statement yesterday** (Wednesday) in response to this ballot initiative: “Its vague and deceptive language could throw open the doors to brutal late-term abortions, putting abortion providers in charge of judging whether, for example, a 39-week-old pre-born baby can be aborted. **That is totally out of step with the pro-life principles of the overwhelming majority of Nebraskans.”**

Today, the pro-abortion coalition Protect Our Rights Nebraska, is formally launching its petition drive with a press conference and launch party. This group will need to collect valid signatures from 10% of the registered voters in the state, or just under 123,000 signatures. The signatures also must be collected from 5% of the registered voters in 38 different Nebraska counties to put this decision on the 2024 ballot for Nebraska voters.

What the voters need to understand is that ballot measures *change a state constitution*, take precedence over laws passed by state legislators, and can only be overturned by another ballot measure.

The time has come to make our voices heard. Nebraska women and children deserve better than this. We are ready and willing to step up to the challenge. Share this with your family and friends, and pray for Nebraska, that we will rise to the challenge and successfully defeat this extreme attempt.

We are joining forces with other state-wide pro-life organizations to defeat this effort: Nebraska Catholic Conference, Nebraska Family Alliance and Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America. **We are pouring our energy into educating Nebraskans and will be working hard in the coming months on behalf of the lives of preborn children and their mothers.**

For Life,

Sandy Danek
Executive Director
Nebraska Right to Life