



NEBRASKA

Right to Life

State affiliate to
National Right to Life

May 2024

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS & INITIATIVE
GENERAL ELECTION, November 05, 2024

- YES
- NO

END OF BALLOT

Two Ballot Initiatives: Clearing Up the Confusion

In our January 2024 newsletter you read about the ballot initiative being promoted by a group of abortion advocates. In March a counter initiative was unveiled that proposes to protect the lives of the babies in the womb in the second and third trimesters, as well

as the mothers who carry them. We thought it would be helpful to highlight what each is trying to do.

Both sides are currently collecting signatures to put their proposed constitutional amendments on the November ballot. If enough signatures

are collected, they will be assigned amendment numbers later this year. For the purpose of this article, we will call the ballot initiatives by the names under which they were filed with the Secretary of State: "Protect the Right to Abortion" and "Protect Women and Children."

See Ballot Initiative
Language and
Comparison on page 2



**ACTION
ALERT**

- Be a Pro-Life
Ballot Initiative
Circulator**
- Sign the Pro-Life
Petition**

Get your faith community involved!

**To sign or circulate a petition,
email:**

nikki@protectwomenchildren.com

or call:

402-770-9241



Two Ballot Initiatives: Clearing Up the Confusion

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Protect the Right to Abortion

What it says:

“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.”

What it means:

- Abortion up until birth. The “until fetal viability” is a smokescreen because post-viability abortion would be permissible “for the health of the mother.” Since “health” is not defined, it could include nonmedical factors including mental, spiritual, financial or familial health, which has already been the case in several court rulings. And by the way, “health” is determined by the health provider, i.e., the abortionist.
- The words “without interference from the state” would likely negate several pro-life laws currently in effect in Nebraska, including the 12-week protection law, ban on dismemberment abortion, parental consent, partial-birth abortion, informed consent, conscience protections for medical providers, prohibition on sale of abortion drugs through the mail, and medical safeguards and standards put in place to help protect mother and baby such as the requirement to see a physician in person (e.g., to ensure it isn’t an ectopic pregnancy).
- The negation of parental notification laws could lead to the undesired result of protecting child predators and human traffickers.
- “All persons” means parental consent or even knowledge of their minor daughter’s abortion would be eliminated, even though parents would have financial liability for any mental or physical follow-up treatment that same post-abortive daughter may need.
- Since “extraordinary medical measures” (which again, is determined by the abortionist) is not defined, it could mean that something as common as a short stay in a hospital neonatal unit after delivery could be considered justification for an abortion.

Those supporting the pro-abortion initiative will use language that sounds like they are fighting for a woman’s right to receive healthcare and for bodily autonomy (remember the “my body, my choice” mantra?). However, the baby in the womb is not a body part of the woman but a separate human being with completely distinct DNA from the moment of

fertilization; it only needs time, nutrients and a safe environment in which to grow and develop – the same as the infant, toddler and grade school child. They will use scare tactics and misleading statements about the dangers women face because their doctors will be prevented from providing care for situations like miscarriages or ectopic pregnancies.

Protect Women and Children

What it says:

“Except when a woman seeks an abortion necessitated by a medical emergency or when the pregnancy results from sexual assault or incest, unborn children shall be protected from abortion in the second and third trimester.”

What it means:

- This language is consistent with the law the Nebraska Legislature passed in 2023 that prevents elective abortions after 12 weeks gestation, with the noted exceptions.
- According to a report by the Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services, 90% of abortions performed in 2022 (most recent statistics available) were before 12 weeks gestation, so there is no need for the pro-abortion ballot initiative.
- According to the same report, the numbers and percentages patients listed as reasons for the abortions were: incest 0/0%; sexual assault 6/.2%; emergency 2/.1%.
- While this initiative provides legal protection for babies in the womb after the first trimester, it does NOT prevent further protective legislation from being enacted in the future.
- Nebraska Right to Life supports this incremental step toward its goal of protecting all life from conception to natural death (see next bullet).
- Pope John Paul II, to whom millions around the world -- Catholics and non-Catholics alike -- looked for moral guidance, said in his “Gospel of Life” encyclical: “...when it is not possible to overturn or completely abrogate a pro-abortion law, an elected official, whose absolute personal opposition to procured abortion was well known, could licitly support proposals aimed at limiting the harm done by such a law ... This does not in fact represent an illicit cooperation with an unjust law, but rather a legitimate and proper attempt to limit its evil aspects.” (See section 73 at https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_25031995_evangelium-vitae.pdf for full explanation.)

This simply isn’t true. Abortion is not healthcare.

The pro-life ballot initiative attempts to provide true healthcare to both patients – mother and child. Rather than taking away “rights” of women, we work toward supporting them in numerous ways including referrals to pregnancy help centers.

June Grummert Remains Active in Early Retirement

Taking early retirement does have its benefits – in the case of June Grummert, Nebraska Right to Life certainly benefitted from her retirement.

“When I retired, I was looking for opportunities to be productive and to touch others,” June said. She didn’t have to look further than her own family, as she is the sister of NRL executive director Sandy Danek.

“Killing babies is wrong,” June said. “I was familiar with what Sandy was trying to accomplish, and I wanted to be part of it.”

June brought her 40 years of experience in executive office management into NRL, including her strong organizational skills. Like most volunteers in any organization, June

does whatever needs to be done. That might include wrapping baby models in blankets, arranging flowers in vases to distribute to senators, being involved in the myriad of preparations for events such as the annual Nebraska Walk for Life Gala, Life Fest, and State Fair.

“Testifying at a legislative hearing was not something I thought I’d ever do, but even that opportunity was presented to me through my work at NRL, and I liked it!”

She also discovered she likes interacting with those in the political arena. “I enjoy being around leaders who really care about life issues; they are so nice, and are always respectful of us who are working in the



trenches,” she added.

“Since volunteering at Nebraska Right to Life, I have come to understand why people are so confused on right-to-life issues, and how NRL is working to educate the public,” June said. “Being part of that educational process is rewarding, but we have a long way to go,” she added.

Nebraska Walk For Life & *Gala*



Thanks to everyone who participated in the Jan. 27 Nebraska Walk For Life, below left, and those who attended the Gala the night before, above.



Keynote Speaker Melissa Ohden, an abortion survivor, describes the journey that led to her pro-life activism. She is the founder of the Abortion Survivors Network.

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nebraskarighttolife.org



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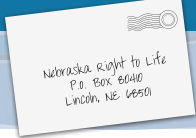
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P.O. Box 80410

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Calling Pro-Life Warriors

As you can see by the content of this newsletter, it is important for you to stay informed on the ballot initiative and other pro-life issues.

If you would like to be added to our email list so you can receive updates, please send an email to nebraskartl@gmail.com with the subject line: Add me to NRL email list.



Memorials

Jack Barrow by Cecilia Barrow

Kathy Larson by Bruce & Kara Zirpel

Patricia Bierman by Ed Hittner, Mark Luetkenhaus, Annette Ramaekers, Doris & Ernie Shonka

Galen Nilson and Harlow Schrage by family, friends and co-workers

Mary Ellen Toodi Wobig by Mary & Dwayne Johnson

WANTED!

The 2024 Nebraska State Fair occurs Aug. 23 through Sept. 2, and Nebraska Right to Life needs volunteers to oversee our booth.

To volunteer, please email sandy@nebraskarighttolife.org.



LIFE FEST

A POST-ROE CELEBRATION

Saturday, June 22, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
at Antelope Park in Lincoln

We're celebrating the second year of living in a post-Roe world.

To volunteer, please email sandy@nebraskarighttolife.org



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