

For Immediate Release 7/4/2024
Nebraska Right to Life

Congratulations to the more than 1,200 volunteer petition circulators who helped the Protect Women and Children Initiative Campaign by gathering more than 205,000 signatures from across the state in 97 days!

Now in the hands of the Nebraska Secretary of State's office, the Protect Women and Children effort accomplished qualifying 91 out of 93 counties.

This could not have been accomplished without the help of so many from around the state who believed in the effort to counter the Protect Our Right to Abortion initiative that would enshrine a right to abortion, even into the second and third trimesters of pregnancy.

History

In November 2023, abortion advocates initiated a ballot measure which would create a right to abortion in the Nebraska Constitution allowing abortion until birth. Protect Our Right to Abortion submitted about 207,000 signatures to the Secretary of State today, attempting to place their initiative on the November 2024 ballot.

In March of 2024, a group of medical professionals countered by forming the Protect Women and Children Ballot Initiative. State-wide pro-life organizations including Nebraska Right to Life and Nebraska Family Alliance supported this effort and have worked to help educate on the initiatives and collect the needed signatures.

The Language

The pro-abortion language would:

Allow Full Term Abortion: 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.

Take Away Parental Rights: By using the words "all persons" in the amendment, this will mean parents will not have the ability to consent or even know if their minor daughter seeks an abortion.

Eliminate Medical Protection for Women: "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.

The pro-life language would:

ESTABLISH PROTECTION IN THE STATE CONSTITUTION

Nebraska would be the first state in our nation to establish pro-life protections in the state constitution.

PROTECT CURRENT NEBRASKA 12-WEEK PRO-LIFE LAW

Takes productive, positive action to support and protect pro-life laws already in place in our state; holds the line as outside abortion advocates attack with their big dollars coming in from out of state and foreign countries.

ALLOW PRO-LIFE LEGISLATION TO BE PASSED IN THE FUTURE

Establishes a ceiling on abortion, but not a floor. The upper limit means it leaves room to protect life from the moment it starts. Nebraska Right to Life staunchly defends life at all stages and will continue to do so until abortion is unthinkable in Nebraska.

The Process

Constitutional ballot measures require the signatures of 10 percent of registered voters, or approximately 123,000 signatures. Ballot measures also require the qualification of 38 counties by collecting signatures from 5% of voters in the county.

Both the Protect Women and Children and the Protect Our Rights to Abortion ballot initiatives would take the very serious step of amending the Nebraska Constitution. However, the Protect Women and Children measure would offer a life-affirming alternative to the Protect Our Rights to Abortion initiative, which would eradicate important medical safeguards like parental involvement, and informed consent.

Now that the signatures are submitted on both sides, the Nebraska Secretary of State has up to 40 days to verify the signatures and confirm that both initiatives will be on the November 2024 ballot.

The Next Phase

As we take the time to celebrate the 4th of July tomorrow, commemorating our Declaration of Independence, we will need to begin again with the important work to educate our family, friends, neighbors, and faith communities about the challenges ahead.

Stay with us to hear of the plans we have in place to assist in the educational process. Additionally, prayer and fasting are our best weapon against this threat. Blessings to you all for your hard work and prayers.

For Life,

Sandy Danek
Executive Director
Nebraska Right to Life