

Dear Pro-Life Partners,

November 15, 2024

Legislation saves lives. Some actions and behaviors must be regulated to avoid bringing harm or destruction to individuals and communities. Some (hint: abortion advocates) would argue that bans “don’t work” because they do not completely eliminate negative outcomes, and that’s true. But would we respond, then, by legalizing heinous crimes such as murder and rape because “they will happen anyway”? How ridiculous! Laws logically and naturally act as a deterrent.

On the flip side, I believe that people generally equate legality with moral license. When a higher entity such as government gives us permission to act, we may feel emboldened to put critical thinking on hold, even if deep down it contradicts our conscience. Why? Because behaviors endorsed in the light are much easier than those condemned in the dark.

This need for strong, morally-based regulation to maintain a strong and moral society is one of the reasons that the failure to defeat Missouri’s Amendment 3 is so painful. Another reason is how it passed—through deceit, misinformation, subterfuge, and outright lies (oh yea, and lots of money). No hyperbole there. Throw in the fact that a mere 51.7% was enough to green light such an atrocity, and it’s a 1-2 punch.

I am proud of how we fought this initiative—honestly, transparently, passionately, and fearlessly. I for one welcomed dialogue and encouraged everyone to examine the full text for themselves (even though it almost required a law degree to decipher). I knew that very few would endorse it if they really understood what it meant (enter highlighted handouts with notes!) So you can imagine my disgust when I read the truncated, watered-down, misleading version on the ballot.

Yet my heart hurts not just for Missouri, but for every state that passed a pro-abortion initiative (see chart). Millions of innocent lives will be lost as a result, and millions more will be damaged by the traumatic aftermath of abortion. Countless victims will be marred physically, mentally, and emotionally by the insidious deception of the transgender ideology. Family and friends will be collateral damage in this unquenchable quest for “reproductive freedom.”

You may notice (when you look at the aforementioned chart) that for every abortion law on the books, no matter how liberal, the proposed law wants even more. They are literally out for blood. Will it never be enough until all limitations are wiped out and the sanctity of life itself is abolished? This downward spiral into the abyss is horrifying.

Yet this remains: Our message is unwavering, and our mission is clear. Regardless of the law, we fight to save lives. Our ultimate goal is not to win elections, but to win hearts. How will we convince vulnerable women not to abort their child when every “My-body-my-choice” utterance (and its myriad of variations) has just been validated in Missouri? Tweak our approach, update our methods, change our perspective, and expand our reach...while standing firm on the truth.

Ultimately, the law is not the litmus test for how we fight for life. Just as the overturning of *Roe v Wade* was not the end because we “won,” the passing of Amendment 3 is not the end because we “lost.” The battle for the American mind continues until abortion is unthinkable in this land I am proud to call home. We can do this! Or maybe we can’t. But God can....through us. 😊

**Pro-Abortion Initiatives on November 2024 State Ballots**

<u>State</u>	<u>Present Law</u>	<u>Proposed Law</u>	<u>Vote</u>
Arizona	Banned after 15 weeks.	<u>Proposition 139:</u> Fundamental “right” to abortion. Legal up to “viability” (defined as 24-26 weeks).	Yes
Colorado	No gestational limit; ban on use of Medicaid coverage.	<u>Amendment 79:</u> Enshrine abortion into the state constitution and allow use of public funds.	Yes
Florida	Banned after 6 weeks.	<u>Amendment 4:</u> Enshrine abortion into the state constitution until “viability”(undefined/up to health-care provider’s discretion).	No
Maryland	No gestational limit.	<u>Senate Bill 798:</u> Enshrine abortion into the state constitution as a fundamental “right” to “...prevent, continue or end one’s own pregnancy.”	Yes
Missouri	Banned except for physical life of the mother.	<u>Amendment 3:</u> Amend state constitution to allow autonomous decisions (including minors) about all reproductive health care matters (beyond abortion), and allow the state legislature to enact laws that regulate abortion after fetal “viability” (undefined).	Yes
Montana	Legal until “viability.”	<u>Amendment CI-128:</u> Amend state constitution to enshrine the “right” to abortion until “viability”(undefined).	Yes
Nebraska	Banned after 12 weeks.	<u>Nebraska Initiative 439:</u> Establish a state constitutional “right” to abortion before “viability” (undefined).	No
		<u>Nebraska Initiative 434:</u> Amend constitution to ban abortions after the first trimester, with exceptions for medical emergency, rape, or incest.	Yes
Nevada	Banned after 24 weeks.	<u>Question 6:</u> Establish a fundamental “right” to abortion into the state constitution until “viability” (undefined), after which the state can regulate, except to protect the life or health of pregnant person.	Yes
New York	Legal until “viability.”	<u>Proposal 1:</u> Protect abortion “rights” by banning any kind of discrimination based on “ethnicity, national origin, age, disability...sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, reproductive healthcare, and autonomy.	Yes
South Dakota	Banned with limited exceptions.	<u>Amendment G:</u> Enshrine “right” to abortion into the state constitution, with a framework for trimester regulations.	No

Partnering with You for Life,

Linda Verhulst, MRL-WR

