Dear Pro-Life Partners, May 1, 2026

## What are the Neighbors Up to?

In our own backyard, Amendment 3 is springing up again, this time more like a pretty flower than an ugly weed like the former Amendment 3. Preliminary polls tell us that we can be cautiously optimistic that it will pass again, but this time with different, and much more positive outcomes. Women, children, and babies will be more protected through

- Upheld safety standards and accountability for facilities and doctors
- Required parental consent for abortion and transgender "care"
- Greater restrictions on abortions across the board.

There is some concern that the new Amendment 3 does not go far enough, allowing abortion for fetal anomalies, incest, and rape. I agree it is unfortunate and certainly not ideal, but consider the following:

- Polls indicate that if a "life begins at conception" clause was included on the ballot, then only 44% would vote yes (and we would be stuck with the present Amendment 3 in our state constitution).
- The ballot language is being written so specifically that "fetal anomaly, rape, and incest" mean precisely that, in an effort to limit the abuse of these terms as much as possible.
- The former Amendment 3 inserted such vague language into the constitution, that massive loopholes were created, opening the door for abortion through all 9 months, for any reason, with little accountability for safety standards.

Over the fence, our neighbor to the West is experiencing a victory at their pro-life barbecue. Last March, the House voted 87-35 and the Senate voted 30-9 to override Governor Kelly's veto of the CARE Act. This bill protects pregnancy centers across Kansas from government discrimination and targeted harassment, and ensures that those who serve women and families in need cannot be forced to act against their beliefs. Abortion is currently legal in Kansas up to 20 weeks with mandatory informed consent, parental consent, and waiting period. Nebraska's laws are similar to Kansas'.

Also last March, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office for Civil Rights opened investigations into 13 states that are forcing health care plans to pay for abortions in violation of federal conscience protections (LifeNews, 3/26). These states include our neighbor to the northeast, Illinois, plus California, Colorado, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington. Illinois is our most liberal neighbor, with an abortion ban after "viability" (typically 24 weeks, but broadly defined), no restrictions on reason for abortion, and no mandatory waiting period.

Arkansas, Iowa, Kentucky, Oklahoma, and Tennessee continue to be model neighbors with pristine lawns, a random weed or two notwithstanding. All these states have near-total abortion bans. Access is restricted after a detected heartbeat or after 6 weeks, with exceptions for medical emergencies (such as the mother's life or fetal anomaly), but not rape or incest. A waiting period and parental consent are mandatory.

Legislation being what it is, it can be all over the map and constantly changing. Remember, although fighting for good pro-life laws is important, talking to our neighbors, friends, family, and coworkers is even more valuable. It is in these conversations that hearts and minds can be touched and lives saved.

Partnering with You for Life!

Linda Verhulst, MRL-WR