



FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

The nonpartisan public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Florida

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Abortion Amendment to Florida's Constitution

Vote 'No' on Amendment 4

Pulpit Announcement

The Church plays a role in the promotion and attainment of justice and protection of the common good. Pope Francis noted in his address to Congress, *"each son and daughter of a given country has a mission, a personal and social responsibility."* As followers and witnesses to Christ, we are encouraged to participate in public life and to apply Gospel values to our political activities. Our actions in the public square must reflect the values of our faith and demonstrate a fundamental belief in the dignity of every person and the sacredness of all human life.

A proposed amendment to our state constitution that seeks to legalize abortion through the third trimester, including when the baby is capable of feeling pain, will appear on the November 2024 ballot. For those not fully aware of the gravity of this extreme amendment, it is important to understand that the language of the amendment is deceptive.

- *The amendment does not require an actual medical doctor to determine if an abortion is necessary to protect the mother's health or if the fetus is viable, but instead allows any "health care provider" to make these decisions. Under Florida law, "health care providers" is not limited to doctors so even employees of abortion clinics who are not doctors would be able to approve late-term abortions.*
- *Unlike other proposed constitutional amendments, the text of the amendment does not define key terms like "health care provider", "viability", "patient's health" or "government interference." Without these definitions, it's impossible for voters to know what the amendment will actually do, causing countless lawsuits and years of legal uncertainty.*
- *This amendment was cleverly worded to hide the fact that it would eliminate current laws and eliminate common sense safety regulations for abortions that most people on both sides of this issue support. For example, while the amendment allows for parental notification, it eliminates the current laws that require parental consent for their minor daughter to have an abortion, making this the only medical decision for which parents have no say.*

The bishops of Florida have urged all Floridians to pray for protections for the preborn and mothers in need, and to stand against the legalization of late-term abortion by voting 'no' on Amendment 4.