

If They Say... You Say...

A Guide to Talking About the Reproductive Freedom for All Abortion Petition

They Say: This amendment gives people the fundamental right to birth control without interference from the government.

They Say: This amendment ensures that women will not be prosecuted for having a miscarriage/abortion.

They Say: All individuals should have the right to access reproductive care.

They Say: Michigan citizens should have the constitutional right to abortion care and reproductive freedom.

They Say: “We believe that it is imperative to enshrine in our constitution that the right to comprehensive reproductive care, including the right to an abortion, remains in the hands of patients and their doctors.”
(From Michigan Voices Executive Director)

They Say: This amendment allows reasonable health regulations and standard of care.

You Say: There are no Michigan laws against birth control. There are no plans for future Michigan laws that would interfere with women having access to birth control.

You Say: There is no history of women being prosecuted in Michigan for either of those circumstances. The court case *In re Vickers* proves this point. In 1963, the Michigan Supreme Court heard *In re Vickers*, a case involving a woman who received an abortion and the doctor who performed the abortion. The court ruled that one who performs an abortion has committed a felony and the person receiving the abortion is not guilty and cannot be charged with aiding or abetting.

You Say: This amendment takes away the rights of the parents who have the responsibility to give consent in any other medical procedure. If abortion is healthcare and it's considered a medical procedure, what makes it different from all other medical procedures that parents are informed on?

You Say: All women have the right to reproductive care in the state of Michigan. Women have access to prenatal care, postpartum care, infertility care, and birth control. Pregnancy help centers provide care for women who are not able to see a doctor. Abortion is not reproductive care as it harms women mentally and physically, and it guarantees that out of the two patients involved, one will die.

You Say: With this amendment, non-physicians will be able to perform abortions, completely taking doctors out of the small picture they were already in. This new amendment will allow for doctors to not be involved whatsoever. Most abortions happening in the U.S. are done by the abortion pill, or a medical abortion. These pills can be bought online and shipped to your house without any consultation with a doctor to assess for ectopic pregnancies. Abortionists are also encouraged by abortion facilities to not connect with their patients as they are trying to fit as many women in the workday as possible. There have been countless stories of women going in for an abortion and reporting that the doctor didn't even make eye contact with them, ask them how they are feeling, or answer their questions when they had doubts.

You Say: The amendment specifically says any health regulation must “not infringe on that individual's autonomous decision-making.” In other words, if someone wants to do anything related to abortion, sex, or anything related to pregnancy, they can do it. If a woman wants to have an untrained person provide them an abortion with rusty tools from a cheap abortion business, there's nothing health regulators could do about it—they couldn't even investigate it.

They Say: This amendment allows for restricting late-term abortions unless there is a health concern.

They Say: This amendment stops the government from prosecuting women who experience miscarriages.

They Say: This amendment allows the state to restrict/regulate abortion after viability.

They Say: This amendment removes restrictions placed on abortion providers that are medically unnecessary and not based on best clinical medicine.

They Say: This amendment protects the rights of the LGBTQ community by allowing them to get the care that they need.

They Say: Signing our petition gives Michiganders the chance to have their voice heard and vote on the future of their reproductive freedom.

You Say: The amendment creates broad exceptions to any late-term abortion bans, specifically mental health. Any person could claim not having a late-term abortion would impact their mental health, so no abortion would ever be restricted. In addition, there is no definition for what health means.

You Say: Millions of Michigan women had miscarriages when abortion was illegal in the state before *Roe v. Wade*, and they were not investigated for having miscarriages. This amendment is written so poorly that it would forbid even investigating infanticides or situations where babies were left to die following botched abortions.

You Say: This amendment changes the definition of fetal viability to no longer mean when the baby can survive outside the womb. The language within the amendment states that viability is when a baby can survive outside of the womb without “extraordinary medical measures.” This means that an infant in the NICU who is only there for a few days could be considered not viable, allowing infanticide at the discretion of the mother and doctor.

You Say: Abortion is currently the only “healthcare” procedure that has constitutional protection. People do not have a constitutional right to get knee surgery. Abortion facilities receive one or more additional waivers to safety regulations and were exempt from regulations for years until 2012 when policies changed. The state puts safety regulations and restrictions on all medical facilities and most medical procedures. Physicians are required by the doctrine of informed consent to tell their patients all information relating to the procedure or diagnosis to ensure that the patient can make an informed decision. Michigan requires that abortionists provide written material that lists alternatives to abortion because they relate to pregnancy.

You Say: This radical abortion, anti-Michigan amendment harms children along with their parents by allowing unregulated clinics and schools to handout steroids and hormones to minors without consent from parents. These hormone treatments have permanent consequences that the parents should know about—including sterilization. This amendment eliminates parent’s fundamental rights to care for the safety and wellbeing of their children.

You Say: It would be a mistake to sign this petition. Whether you believe in the petition as a whole or just parts, signing the petition would bring the reality of unlimited, unrestricted abortions one step closer. This petition seeks to change our state constitution and should be a decision that is not taken lightly.



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