

Questions and Answers Regarding Proposal 3

Q: What would this proposal do?

A: This proposal seeks to add an amendment to the Michigan Constitution that would guarantee that abortion is legal through all nine months of pregnancy, with no limitations or regulations. Specifically, the proposal would:

- Legalize abortion at any time and for any reason.
- Allow teens to obtain abortions, contraceptives and sterilization without their parents knowing.
- Allow abortion to be performed by anyone—even those without a medical license.

Q: How would this change abortion laws in Michigan?

A: Michigan has several laws on the books that require parental consent and informed consent to protect women and children, prohibit partial-birth abortion and taxpayer-funded abortion, and require abortion facilities to be licensed and inspected, among others. Under this amendment, all of Michigan's pro-life laws would be revoked, and it would be nearly impossible for the Legislature to pass any laws to regulate abortion and protect women and children.

Q: Why is this amendment being proposed?

A: This proposal was launched in anticipation that the U.S. Supreme Court would strike down *Roe v. Wade*. The Supreme Court ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health* allowed abortion regulation to return to individual state legislatures to decide, yet this amendment would take that power away from the Legislature by locking unlimited abortion access into the state constitution and blocking laws from regulating abortion.

Q: How would passing this amendment compare to when *Roe v. Wade* was in effect?

A: This amendment would take Michigan far beyond what was allowed for abortion under *Roe*. In the half century since *Roe*, dozens of laws have been passed to regulate abortion. Under this proposed amendment, those protections would be gone, and abortion would essentially be unrestricted and unregulated.

Q: How late into pregnancy would an abortion be allowed under this amendment?

A: The amendment would allow for abortions all throughout pregnancy. The amendment appears to allow a ban on late-term abortions, but it also provides an exception based on the mother's physical and mental health, in addition to protecting the mother's life. That means a late-term abortion could be justified for almost any reason.

Q: How would Michigan compare to other states if this amendment passed?

A: According to the pro-abortion Guttmacher Institute, Michigan is one of 36 states that require parental involvement in their child's decision to have an abortion, one of 32 states requiring abortions be performed by a licensed physician, and one of 43 states that prohibit abortion after a specified point in pregnancy.

Under Proposal 3, Michigan would no longer require parental consent, that physicians perform abortions, or a limit to when an abortion can happen in a pregnancy, putting Michigan in the minority of states in all three categories.

Q: Who is pushing this amendment?

A: Planned Parenthood and the American Civil Liberties Union are the primary backers, with support from their national affiliates and out-of-state donors. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Attorney General Dana Nessel also support the proposal.

Q: Who is working to defeat the amendment?

A: The official group dedicated to defeating the abortion proposal is called Citizens to Support MI Women & Children. That group is led by Michigan Catholic Conference and Right to Life of Michigan. MCC is working with each diocese in the state, who are in turn working with their respective parishes, to get the word out to every Catholic and encourage them to vote **NO** and to support the opposition to the proposed constitutional amendment. ■