

INITIATIVE PETITION

Amendment to the Constitution

Proposed by Initiative Petition

To be Submitted Directly to the Electors.

To the Attorney General of Ohio: Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 3519.01(A), the undersigned electors of the State of Ohio, numbering in excess of one thousand, hereby submit to you the full text of a proposed Amendment to the Ohio Constitution and a summary of the same.

TITLE

Amendment to Article I, Section 22 – Reproductive Healthcare and Legislative Authority Over Abortion

SUMMARY

The proposed amendment would repeal and replace Section 22 of Article I of the Ohio Constitution. The existing section establishes a right to reproductive freedom, including decisions regarding abortion, contraception, fertility treatment, and miscarriage care. The proposed amendment would maintain constitutional protection for access to reproductive healthcare services such as contraception, fertility treatment, and miscarriage care, but would remove constitutional protection for abortion.

The amendment would:

1. Maintain constitutional protection for access to contraception, fertility treatment, and miscarriage care.
2. Remove constitutional protection for abortion.
3. Provide that the regulation of abortion shall be within the exclusive authority of the Ohio General Assembly.
4. Provide that no provision of the Ohio Constitution shall be interpreted to create or protect a right to abortion.
5. Provide that, for purposes of this section, the term 'abortion' shall have the meaning ascribed to it in Section 2919.11 of the Ohio Revised Code.

COMMITTEE TO REPRESENT THE PETITIONERS

The following persons are designated as a committee to represent the petitioners in all matters relating to the petition or its circulation:

Thomas L. Bailey, 20365 Crooked Rd, Butler, Ohio 44822

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FULL TEXT OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Be it Resolved by the People of the State of Ohio that Article I, Section 22 of the Ohio Constitution be amended as follows:

Existing Section:

~~A. Every individual has a right to make and carry out one's own reproductive decisions, including but not limited to decisions on:~~

- ~~1. contraception;~~
- ~~2. fertility treatment;~~
- ~~3. continuing one's own pregnancy;~~
- ~~4. miscarriage care; and~~
- ~~5. abortion.~~

~~B. The State shall not, directly or indirectly, burden, penalize, prohibit, interfere with, or discriminate against either:~~

- ~~1. An individual's voluntary exercise of this right; or~~
- ~~2. A person or entity that assists an individual exercising this right.~~

~~However, abortion may be prohibited after fetal viability. But in no case may such an abortion be prohibited if in the professional judgment of the pregnant patient's treating physician it is necessary to protect the pregnant patient's life or health.~~

~~As used in this Section:~~

- ~~1. "Fetal viability" means "the point in a pregnancy when, in the professional judgment of the pregnant patient's treating physician, the fetus has a significant likelihood of survival outside the uterus with reasonable measures. This is determined on a case-by-case basis."~~
- ~~2. "State" includes any governmental entity and any political subdivision.~~

~~This Section is self-executing.~~

Proposed Replacement Language:

Section 22. Reproductive Healthcare Protections

Individuals have the right to access reproductive healthcare, including but not limited to contraception, fertility treatment, and miscarriage care.

This section shall not be interpreted to establish, confer, or protect a right to abortion.

The General Assembly shall have exclusive authority to regulate abortion in the state of Ohio, and no provision of this Constitution shall be interpreted to confer, protect, or guarantee a right to abortion.

This section shall be self-executing, and laws may be passed to facilitate its operation.