

Abortion is not reproductive care as it harms women mentally and physically and guarantees that out of the two patients involved, one will die. Abortion is never medically necessary to help save the life of a mother.

**THEY SAY** "Decisions on abortion should remain between a woman and her doctor"

**WE RESPOND** With this amendment, nonphysicians would be able to conduct abortions, undermining the notion that women would be making these decisions with the help of an appropriately licensed physician.

The amendment would block the state from prohibiting abortions in cases where "in the professional judgment of an attending health care professional," the abortion "is medically indicated to protect the life or physical or mental health of the pregnant individual."

Under Michigan law, "health care professional" means more than just a physician, as that definition also includes dentists, chiropractors, massage therapists, acupuncturists, counselors, and psychologists, to name a few examples.

The language also says the state could not "penalize, prosecute, or otherwise take adverse action against someone for aiding or assisting a pregnant individual in exercising their right to reproductive freedom with their voluntary consent."

Because of that, a school counselor, for example, could take a 13-year-old girl to get an abortion, contraception, or undergo sterilization without telling her parents, and there is nothing her parents could legally do, if they ever found out.

**THEY SAY** "This amendment allows for women to have autonomy over their own bodies"

**WE RESPOND** A pregnant woman carries inside her a human life that deserves the same dignity that she should be afforded. If a woman becomes pregnant unexpectedly or unwillingly and she feels she is unable or unwilling to parent her child, there are options to ensure the baby is safe and cared for through the state's adoption process or the Safe Delivery Law, which allows mothers to surrender their newborns for adoption, no questions asked.

**THEY SAY** "This amendment still allows for restricting late-term abortions."

**WE RESPOND** The amendment creates broad exceptions to any ban enacted on late-term abortions, including for reasons related to mental health. Any pregnant woman could claim not getting a late-term abortion would cause her anxiety or stress, so essentially no abortion would be restricted.

**THEY SAY** "This amendment still allows the state to restrict/regulate abortion after viability."

**WE RESPOND** This amendment changes the definition of fetal viability to no longer mean when the baby can survive outside the womb, instead defining it as when a baby can survive outside of the womb without "extraordinary medical measures."

This means that a prematurely born infant who needs intensive medical treatment could be considered not viable in the eyes of the mother and the "healthcare professional," who does not have to be a licensed physician under the language provided in the amendment.

**THEY SAY** "Over 700,000 Michiganders signed this proposal to put it on the ballot, which shows how widely supported it is."

**WE RESPOND** Paid petition gatherers are not legally required to tell people everything that a proposal would do. Thus, it is likely that most people who signed the petition did not read the proposal or understand the reality of what they were signing. People from various backgrounds, including those who say they are pro-choice, overwhelmingly oppose partial-birth abortion and support health and safety regulations on abortion clinics. This proposal would give constitutional protections to third-trimester abortions up to birth and likely revoke state law that requires abortion facilities to be licensed and inspected. ■

