

White Paper: Colorado Ballot 2024 Constitutional Amendment on Abortion

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ON THE 2024 COLORADO BALLOT THAT WOULD PUT INTO LAW THAT ABORTION IS A “RIGHT” AND FORCE TAXPAYERS TO PAY FOR IT

This measure seeks to make three changes to Colorado law:

- 1) Makes killing children through elective abortion a legal “right” in the Colorado Constitution all nine months of pregnancy.
- 2) Forces all Colorado taxpayers to participate in the intentional deaths of healthy children all nine months of pregnancy regardless of moral objections.
- 3) Repeals section 50 of article V of the Colorado Constitution which reads: *No public funds shall be used by the State of Colorado, its agencies or political subdivisions to pay or otherwise reimburse, either directly or indirectly, any person, agency or facility for the performance of any induced abortion, PROVIDED HOWEVER, that the General Assembly, by specific bill, may authorize and appropriate funds to be used for those medical services necessary to prevent the death of either a pregnant woman or her unborn child under circumstances where every reasonable effort is made to preserve the life of each.*

Summary of intent:

This amendment seeks to expand abortion in the state by targeting women of lower income and those employed by the government. This measure is intended to increase profit for abortionists, spend state funds for abortion, force Colorado tax payers to participate in the deaths of children regardless of religious or moral conscience, increase the numbers of children killed through abortion, remove the provision in the state Constitution that refers to an unborn child as a life worth preserving, and make it as difficult as possible for conscientious citizens to protect any children prior to, during, or shortly following birth through future statutory ballot initiatives. This measure would override the vote of the people that prevents public funds from paying for abortion.

Background analysis:

Current Colorado law allows abortion all nine months of pregnancy without restriction. Children who are fully alive, unique human beings beginning at conception with heartbeats at 21 days from conception and able to feel pain by seven weeks following conception are painfully dismembered, scalded, poisoned, starved, and stabbed through chemical and surgical “abortion”.

There are currently thirty-six couples waiting to adopt for every baby available to adopt. [1] There is no medical reason to intentionally kill a child through abortion, as doctors can attempt to save all lives, including monitoring and early delivery or cesarean section (C-section) intended to save the child’s life and also safer for their mother. In ectopic pregnancies, the mother may be monitored to see if the child relocates naturally, or an attempt may be made to transplant the child into the uterus. [2] For children with poor prognoses, there are grief and hospice programs allowing children to pass peacefully. [3]

The financial cost of pregnancy and childbirth are covered in the state of Colorado for those making less than \$75,000 annually. [4] Emotional support, parenting classes, baby clothes and items, and ultrasound are available at no-cost through most pregnancy care centers, [5] and modern adoption agencies where mothers may choose parents for her child and how involved she’d like to be in her child’s life typically offer professional counseling at no-cost to her. [6]

Abortion has traditionally been illegal. Prior to 1967, abortion was illegal in all fifty states. In 1967, the Colorado legislature passed the first law allowing the intentional killing of preborn children in cases of rape, incest, fetal abnormality, or to protect the life of the mother up to sixteen weeks of pregnancy. The governor added that any abortion needed the consent of the husband and a review by a three-doctor panel. In 1973, the Supreme Court overrode all laws prohibiting or limiting abortion. In 1982 and 1983, Colorado paid \$422,000 for 1,800 abortions for Medicaid-eligible mothers, and in 1984 Coloradans voted that tax funds could not pay for abortions. [7]

In 2003, the Colorado legislature passed a law requiring parental notification for minors seeking abortion. In 2006, the governor signed into law allowing pharmacists to provide “emergency contraception”. Amendments to protect preborn children as persons were put on the Colorado ballot by voters in 2008, 2010, and 2014, gaining momentum and more votes each time. [8]

In 2019, the Colorado legislature passed a law requiring public schools that teach sexuality to include abortion as a “pregnancy outcome” and prevented schools from promoting abstinence as the best or only way to fully prevent pregnancy, even though most contraceptives have a 1-4% failure rate with perfect use and 7% to 27% “typical use” failure rate, and more than half of abortions are performed on women who were using contraception. [9]

In 2022, the Colorado legislature passed RHEA, removing parental notification requirements for minor children seeking abortion and allowing living children to be painfully aborted all nine months of pregnancy, and leaving some interpretation for following birth. In 2023, the Colorado legislature passed several new laws keeping abortionists from being investigated for crimes, requiring large employers to pay for abortions through health insurance, and preventing women from being informed that after taking the first of two abortion pills they can potentially save their baby’s life if they change their mind. [10]

Painfully torturing children to death all nine months of pregnancy isn’t enough for abortionists; they want the practice of child sacrifice written into the state Constitution as a right and every Colorado taxpayer to pay for it.

How amendment would be implemented:

All taxpayers including pastors, priests, and those with religious and moral consciences would be forced to participate in paying for the deaths of children to which they morally

object. Citizens trying to protect viable and healthy children would need to pass a Constitutional amendment which is difficult to do without the tremendous amount of funds and media coverage that the abortion industry has at its disposal. Abortionists will make even greater profits off the deaths of tiny infants at the expense of all taxpayers. More children will die.

Unintended consequences if the measure were to pass:

Health insurance premiums and taxes may increase and other areas of need may decrease to cover the cost of abortions in the state. The state's revenue may decrease as taxpayers who refuse to participate in the intentional deaths of children may move to other states. As fewer children are born, there will be a shortage in the workforce. There will be an increase in trauma, healthcare costs, and further decline in a healthy workforce and healthy families and communities as an increased number of women and families of childbearing age participate in the deaths of their children. Psychological issues of anxiety, depression, rage, and suicidal tendencies will increase for youth and women of childbearing age. [11] Intended or unintended, the rates of children being tortured to death through abortion will increase in the state.

Arguments against the measure:

- 1) Abortion intentionally causes the deaths of living human children with heartbeats, faces, fingers and toes through painful dismemberment, poisoning, scalding, stabbing, and starvation.
- 2) Abortion is already legal all nine months of pregnancy without restriction. This amendment would force all taxpayers, including those with moral objections, to participate financially in the killing of innocent children so that all Coloradans become accomplices to children's deaths.
- 3) This law will codify the continued violation, deception, coercion, and exploitation of young pregnant mothers who are not informed of their child's development, procedures or risks of abortion, other non-violent options available to them,

or the long term and lasting consequences that they will live with the rest of their lives.

4) There will be an increase in anxiety, depression, alcohol and drug dependence, rage, and suicidal tendencies among young people and among both women and men in our society who are targeted and participate in taking the life of a child through abortion. [12]

5) More women will suffer physically from abortion including infection, hemorrhage, infertility, and deaths which abortionists in our state are not required to report. Though poorly cited, according to the National Institute of Health, "the incidence of abortion-related emergency department visits within six weeks of the initial abortion procedure is about 40%." [13] A more verifiable study in California showed 15% (approximately 1 in 7 women) visited an emergency department following an abortion. The study included mothers who had used both the abortion pill mifepristone and those who had succumbed to surgical abortions. [14] Abortionists report 1 in 25 women need an emergency room following an abortion. [15]

6) There are devastating physical, psychological, emotional, spiritual, and economic impacts on individuals, families, communities, and the state that allows the sacrifice of children.

7) Every living human being has a right to live as guaranteed by the US Constitution. This amendment to the state Constitution is unconstitutional in denying every human being's right to live.

Conclusion:

To understand the opposition – why people are opposed or would be opposed – it is important to note that these are living human children being killed and their mothers, families, communities, and our state being harmed.

This law is unhealthy and immoral. It is unfair to Colorado taxpayers. Anyone who cares about children, mothers, and

[1] American Adoptions, www.americanadoptions.com, April, 2024.

[2] Ectopic Life: What Your Doctor Doesn't Know About Ectopic Pregnancy, Bill Fortenberry, 2023.

[3] <https://www.stringofpearlsonline.org/services/>

[4] Health First Colorado, www.healthfirstcolorado.com, April 2024.

[5] Care Net, www.care-net.org, April 2024.

[6] <https://adoption-for-my-baby.com/how-to/put-a-baby-up-for-adoption/>

[7] <https://coloradopolitics.com>

[8] <https://coloradopolitics.com>

[9] <https://Gutmacher.org>

[10] <https://abortionpillreversal.com/>

[11] Abortion and mental health: quantitative synthesis and analysis

of research published 1995–2009. Published online by Cambridge University Press: 02 January 2018.

[12] Abortion and mental health: quantitative synthesis and analysis of research published 1995–2009. Published online by Cambridge University Press: 02 January 2018.

[13] National Library of Medicine: National Center for Biotechnology Information, "Abortion Complications", Karima R. Sajadi-Ernazarova; Christopher L. Martinez, May 16, 2023

[14] A Longitudinal Cohort Study of Emergency Room Utilization Following Mifepristone Chemical and Surgical Abortions, 1999-2015.

[15] Incidence of Emergency Department Visits and Complications After Abortion, ACOG, January 2015.