AAPLOG

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AAPLOG's Statement on Ohio's Proposed Constitutional Amendment on Abortion

Ohio's proposed constitutional amendment on abortion should concern both medical professionals who care about the health of their patients as well as citizens concerned about their healthcare. Patients in Ohio can already receive the excellent care they need under current state laws. Under current state law, physicians can provide care for women with life-threatening pregnancy complications, including miscarriage and ectopic pregnancy.

This proposed constitutional amendment was specifically crafted using vague language that appears benign, but which would make Ohio one of the most extreme pro-abortion states in the country. The amendment would legalize abortion through all nine months of pregnancy by allowing post-viability abortion for broadly defined "health" reasons, which have long been understood legally to include any and all factors supposedly affecting health, including socioeconomic reasons. Its broad language forbidding "direct or indirect" restrictions on abortion places at risk such basic safeguards as protections against coerced abortion, parental consent, conscience rights for pro-life clinicians, current health and safety regulations for abortion clinics, and counseling to support a woman through her pregnancy – all of which have been demonstrated to help women. In a state that, like so many other states, already has many maternity care deserts, threatening the licenses of physicians who will not perform or refer for procedures they have valid objections to will only exacerbate this problem, ultimately leading to worsening of health outcomes for patients across the state. This proposed amendment also opens the door for the legal targeting of pregnancy resource centers, which serve thousands of Ohio women with material, medical, and emotional support every year.

Laws such as this jeopardize the health and well-being of women and preborn children in favor of a radical political agenda that is out of step with the convictions of a majority of Ohio citizens and the many AAPLOG members in the state. The people of Ohio, through their elected representatives, have already made it clear through current laws that they value and wish to protect life. This constitutional amendment is an effort to circumvent the will of the people and replace it with an extreme pro-abortion law that will have multiple deleterious effects on the health of Ohio's citizens. AAPLOG opposes this attack on our patients and our profession and will continue to advocate for laws and policies that protect women and their unborn children.

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