

## **“Fundamental Right to Reproductive Freedom” - A proposed amendment to the Virginia Constitution with concerning outcomes**

Abortion is currently legal in Virginia throughout all nine months of pregnancy, with certain requirements for late term abortion and abortion providers. The vague, sweeping wording of this amendment will lead to legal challenges that will most likely:

### **(1) Remove protections for women**

- \* any person, licensed or not, performing abortions with immunity from state penalties
- \* inability of lawmakers to set basic health and safety standards for abortion facilities

Note: The amendment adds no new protections for women's health. Virginia law already safeguards care for miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, and other medical complications. A pregnancy can be ended by early delivery if a woman's health is at risk.

### **(2) Remove protections for minors**

Current Virginia law requires parental consent before a minor receives an abortion, with an exception for judicial bypass when needed. With no age specification, this amendment will remove adult oversight (except for the abortionist), with minors vulnerable to undue pressure and trafficking. It could also extend to transgender procedures on minors without parental consent.

### **(3) Allow abortion throughout all nine months anywhere for any reason**

Third trimester abortion will no longer need to be performed in a hospital, and only the abortionist (rather than three physicians) will need to approve it. Healthy infants who can survive outside the womb could be aborted for any reason.

### **(4) Require taxpayer funding of all abortion**

Public funds can currently be used for abortion in Virginia in certain limited circumstances. As a "fundamental right", funding could be extended to cover all abortions for any reason at any time.

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The implications from this amendment are beyond what most Virginians favor. The amendment will not be included on the Nov. 3 ballot, only a summary question which is misleading.

Find the actual amendment, ballot language, and more details here --->

