



IMPORTANT: DO NOT SIGN PRO-ABORTION PETITIONS

TO: Bulletin Editors, Parish Secretaries, Parish Communications Staff
FROM: Rebecca Mastee, J.D., Policy Advocate
DATE: March 21, 2022
RE: "Do Not Sign" Effort Against Pro-Abortion Signature Drive - Now through July 11th

Michigan Catholic Conference, the official public policy voice of the Catholic Church in this state, is asking parishes to encourage the lay faithful to avoid cooperating with a pro-abortion signature drive now taking place throughout the state. This proposed constitutional amendment, promoted by Planned Parenthood and the ACLU, would overturn most, if not all, of the pro-life laws that currently protect unborn children and vulnerable mothers in Michigan. It would also revoke state law that prohibits abortion except to save the mother's life, which stands to go back into effect if the U.S. Supreme Court allows states to decide the legality of abortion. Between now and July 11, when petitions are required to be submitted to the state, please utilize the following "Do Not Sign" messages in any of your written or electronic communication with parishioners, including bulletins, weekly or monthly emails, or other means used to inform Catholics about important news.

DO NOT BE MISLED: A deceptive Constitutional Amendment petition is circulating to allow for unlimited and unregulated abortions in the state. This would legalize abortion at any time of pregnancy, for any reason, and prevent health and safety requirements for abortion facilities. If you are approached by a person collecting signatures, ask to first review the text of the proposal. Decline to sign if the description reads "Constitutional Amendment to: establish new individual right to reproductive freedom..." For more information, go to www.supportmiwomenandchildren.org.

UNLIMITED ABORTION PETITION CIRCULATING: Individuals are currently collecting signatures across the state to change the Michigan Constitution to allow for unregulated abortions. This "Reproductive Freedom" petition is opposed by the Catholic bishops in Michigan. It would allow schools to help teens obtain abortions without their parents knowing. Parents: Do NOT sign away your rights. If approached for your signature, first review the text of the proposal. Say "no thank you" to the unlimited abortion petition where the description begins with "Constitutional Amendment to: establish new individual right to reproductive freedom..." Find out more at www.supportmiwomenandchildren.org.

BE AWARE: A deceptive petition to allow for unlimited and unregulated abortions is circulating across the state. The "Reproductive Freedom" constitutional amendment puts women's health at risk. It would eliminate at least 25 health and safety laws that currently regulate abortion and would allow abortion to be performed by anyone – even those without a medical license. If you are approached for a signature, first review the text of the proposal. The unlimited abortion petition description reads "Constitutional Amendment to: establish new individual right to reproductive freedom..." Please do NOT sign this dangerous petition, which is opposed by the Catholic bishops in Michigan. More information is available at www.supportmiwomenandchildren.org.



**Information concerning a statewide petition drive
to amend the Michigan constitution
to allow abortion at any time during pregnancy**

Catholic residents of Michigan may encounter in public locations petition gatherers asking for your signature on a form that begins "Constitutional Amendment to: establish new individual right to reproductive freedom..."

Michigan's bishops are encouraging Catholics **not to sign this petition**. It will overturn and likely prohibit policies that protect unborn children. Perhaps kindly respond "no thank you" and say a brief prayer for life as you continue with your day.

Organizations in Michigan, including Planned Parenthood and the American Civil Liberties Union, have formed a ballot committee to raise funds and organizational support to pass this pro-abortion constitutional amendment. If passed, the amendment would go into effect whether or not the U.S. Supreme Court soon allows states to decide their own abortion policy.

To oppose this petition, a coalition of organizations committed to protecting the lives of unborn children and supporting their mothers has formed. Citizens to Support Michigan Women and Children includes Michigan Catholic Conference and Right to Life of Michigan.

To place a question on the November statewide ballot the proponents of this abortion amendment must collect 425,059 valid signatures from Michigan voters and submit those signatures to the State by July 11, 2022.

Please carefully consider the impact of this proposed policy on unborn children and the health and well-being of their mothers. Rather than abortion, women should be provided love, compassion and support through pregnancy and into each child's early years.

Visit supportmiwomenandchildren.org for more information.

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