

STOP THE RIGHT-TO-ABORTION AMENDMENT TO THE VIRGINIA CONSTITUTION

Here is what the Right-to-Abortion Amendment will do if enacted and why we need to make sure this Amendment is never added to the Virginia Constitution.

The Amendment will overturn these existing pro-life laws that protect the unborn.

- Partial-Birth Abortion Ban
- Parental Consent
- Limitations on taxpayer funding of abortions
- Restrictions on abortion up until birth

The Amendment will prevent passage or reinstatement of the following pro-life laws and prevent any other new pro-life laws or regulations:

- Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act
- Woman's Right-to-Know law: Informed Consent- Ultrasound requirement
- Parental Consent requirements before abortion
- Protecting Unborn Children from Dismemberment
- Webcam Abortion Ban
- Sex-selection Abortion Ban
- Most restrictions on banning taxpayer funding of Abortion

Here is the process for amending the Virginia Constitution:

- A resolution supporting the Constitutional Amendment must pass both the State Senate and the House of Delegates during the same legislative session.
- A general election for the House of Delegates must be held in between. (2021)
- The exact same resolution must pass the State Senate and the House of Delegates during the next session after the election
- The resolution is voted on as a ballot referendum. If a majority of those voting favor the amendment, the amendment will be added to the Virginia Constitution. The vote by the public is scheduled by the General Assembly.
- The next two sessions in 2021 and 2022 are set to fit this timetable perfectly. So we must lay the groundwork now if we are going to be able to defeat this Amendment.

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Frequently Asked Questions about the Right-to-Abortion Amendment

1. What is the official name of the Right-to-Abortion Amendment?

Answer: Personal Reproductive Liberty. GA 2020 Bill Number and Text of the Amendment: *SJ2 Constitutional Amendment: Personal Reproductive Liberty. Amends the Constitution of Virginia by adding a section establishing the individual right to personal reproductive autonomy. The amendment prohibits the denial or infringement upon this right unless justified by a compelling interest of the Commonwealth and achieved by the least restrictive means.*

2. Why do you call it the Right-to-Abortion Amendment?

Answer: Reproductive Liberty is legal code for the Right-to-Abortion. The courts could certainly interpret this amendment as allowing an unfettered, unregulated right-to-abortion for any reason and at any time in pregnancy.

A CNN story talking about an Amendment to the Vermont Constitution with the exact same language as the proposed Virginia Amendment describes the amendment with the following: “...to amend the state constitution to protect personal reproductive liberty and guarantee the right to an abortion.”

3. Who is the lead Sponsor of this Amendment?

Answer: During the 2020 General Assembly session lead patron was the pro-abortion Senate Majority Leader, Sen. Dick Saslaw(D-35th). In 2019, Sen. Jennifer Boysko(D- 86th) was the patron. We don't know who will carry the bill in the 2021 session.

4. How can be the amendment be defeated?

Answer: Having a pro-life majority of State Senate or House of Delegates defeat the resolution or Virginians defeat the bill during a ballot initiative. We believe it is important to defeat this Amendment when being voted on by the Virginia General Assembly. Planned Parenthood, with vast financial resources, would dramatically outspend pro-life efforts to defeat the Amendment.

5. What can I do to help defeat the Right-to-Abortion Amendment?

Answer: There are many ways you can get involved in the effort to defeat this Amendment including:

- Sign the petition to “Stop the Right-to-Abortion Amendment” at www.vshl.org
- Print the petition, collect signatures and return to VSHL. A paper version is available on the VSHL Website.
- Distribute copies of this flyer to friends, family, church, clubs and public events
- Put a bumper sticker on your car opposing the Amendment
- Contact your State Senator and Delegate to oppose the Amendment
- Vote for Pro-Life Candidates and Volunteer to help VSHL
- Sign up for VSHL's email list or follow us on Facebook
- Donate to VSHL at www.vshl.org