

# **STOP THE EXTREME 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 Extreme 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 the moment of 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 including a Waiting Period
- × 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.
- 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.
- Pro-Abortion Forces want to take over the Virginia General Assembly during the 2023 elections. Then they will pass the Amendment during the 2024 Session. We must expose this radical plan 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: The Constitutional Amendment was introduced as the “*Fundamental Right to Reproductive Freedom*”. The bill number in 2023 is HJ 519. *Provides that every individual has the fundamental right to reproductive freedom and that the right to make and effectuate one's own decisions about all matters related to one's pregnancy cannot be denied, burdened, or otherwise infringed upon by the Commonwealth, unless justified by a compelling state interest and achieved by the least restrictive means. The amendment prohibits the Commonwealth from penalizing, prosecuting, or otherwise taking adverse action against an individual for exercising the individual's right to reproductive freedom or for aiding another individual in the exercise of such right, unless justified by a compelling state interest.*

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

Answer: Reproductive Freedom 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 2023 General Assembly session lead patron in the House is pro-abortion Delegate Charniele Herring and in the State Senate are Senator Jennifer McClellan and Senator Ellen Boysko.

## 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 if the Amendment goes to a referendum.

## 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](http://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](http://www.vshl.org).