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## Reject Ohio Issue 1 November 7, 2023

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[Excerpts from the August 12, 2023 letter]

“On November 7, 2023, Ohioans will have the opportunity to demonstrate how our state views the sacredness of life and the dignity of women. On the November ballot will be a proposed amendment (deceptively named “The Right to Reproductive Freedom with Protections for Health and Safety”) to the Ohio Constitution that would enshrine the “right” to take the lives of innocent children in the womb while harming women and families in the process...

If enacted, it would amend the Constitution of Ohio to effectively:

- **Put women at risk.** This amendment would enable elimination of some of the most basic, fundamental safety regulations on abortion clinics, including the current requirement for an abortion to be performed by a licensed physician.
- **Threaten parental rights.** The vague language in the amendment opens the door to anyone under 18 having an abortion, or even beginning cross-sex hormone treatment, without parental consent or notification.
- **Allow abortion through 9 months of pregnancy.** The amendment provides caveats such that a healthy, fully-formed infant in the womb who otherwise could be delivered with no issues would still be a candidate for a surgical dismemberment abortion.

We must reject this extraordinary and dangerous attempt to radically reshape Ohio through a constitutional amendment that does nothing to aid women or promote life...

Some may insist that the Catholic Church should not be involved in politics. However, the defense of life and care for women compels our participation in this critical moral issue... The Church must not remain on the sidelines when confronted with such a clear threat to human life and dignity and the primacy of the family...

I urge Catholics and all people of goodwill to pray earnestly for the defeat of this extreme amendment; to educate yourselves and your family and friends about the dangers of the proposed amendment; and to vote NO on November 7.”

[Emphasis added]

The full text of the letter is available at  
[www.catholicaoc.org](http://www.catholicaoc.org)

Learn more about the amendment at  
[www.OhioCathConf.org/protect](http://www.OhioCathConf.org/protect)

