

A right to abortion embeds extremism in our state Constitution

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Letter to the Editor

Grand Junction Daily Sentinel

October 19, 2024

Vote No on Amendment 79

A big thank you to humorist Bill Maher for bringing some clarity to the abortion debate. Recently on his show, he pointed out that pro-lifers “don’t hate women,” but oppose abortion because they think that abortion is murder. He continued, “And it kind of is. And I’m just OK with that.”

Though the electorate has been wrangling over the issue for more than 60 years, little progress has been made as the two sides seem to talk past one another. Finally, some clarity from one who is firmly on the pro-choice side.

It seems that all pro-abortion arguments rest on one of two pillars: either ignorance or indifference. Those who favor abortion either don’t know what abortion entails or they don’t care.

That is, either they don’t acknowledge that the developing fetus is human and alive or, as Maher indicated, they know it takes the life of an innocent human being, but they don’t care.

Amendment 79 calls for the “right” to abortion to be embedded in the state Constitution. Of course, there is no pressing need for this extreme position to be embedded in our state’s Constitution. Colorado already has the most permissive laws in the nation and allows abortion on demand throughout pregnancy. And abortion can currently be done for any reason, even sex selection up to the moment of birth.

So, why is this extreme measure on the ballot here in Colorado now?

It seems that those behind this proposal simply wish to ride the tide of popular opinion and press their advantage and keep moving ever further along the path that has developed since the Dobb’s decision. They have observed what has happened in other states and anticipate victory here. But now is the time for Coloradans to say enough is enough and vote no on 79 for three main reasons.

First, this extreme measure would ban anything that impedes the “right” to abortion and so it would ban parental notification

laws. If a teenager finds herself pregnant and is being pressured by a boyfriend, a teacher or a counselor to have an abortion, this amendment would prohibit parental notification. Second, since it repeals the ban on public funding for abortion, it would require that all of us pay for abortions even if we believe that ending a pregnancy is tantamount to murder. Finally, it would embed the right to abortion throughout pregnancy in the state Constitution, even though as the American Association of Pro-Life OBGYNs has indicated, abortion is never medically indicated. As medical professionals, we can attest to the fact that even in rare cases in which the life of the mother is

threatened by the continuation of a pregnancy and the baby must be delivered immediately, it is not necessary to kill the child prior to delivery.

Undoubtedly, during this campaign, we will hear the obvious lies that women will be jailed for miscarriage or ectopic pregnancy. This is a scare tactic that has been surprisingly effective in the elections in other states that have followed the Dobbs decision.

It is absolute nonsense. It distracts us from the real issue and the real issue is that Amendment 79 should be rejected because it is unnecessary, uncalled for and attempts to embed extreme policies in our state constitution. As physicians, we encourage you to vote “no” on Amendment 79.

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