



Center FOR Christian Virtue

Public Policy. Engagement. Education.

October 24, 2023

To our fellow Ohio Christians:

We write to you as Christian and denominational leaders from a variety of backgrounds. While we have important theological differences, we are united in our belief that Issue 1 is too extreme for Ohio. Together, we oppose Issue 1 and denounce the abortion industry's current ad suggesting that Christians should support this dangerous Constitutional amendment.

If Issue 1 is adopted, the most innocent among us will suffer. Issue 1 will allow late-term abortions in Ohio and result in unspeakable pain for unborn babies. It will make Ohio one of the most extreme states in the country for abortion and eliminate health and safety standards that exist to protect women.

Christians are urged in Ephesians 4:14 to "not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever, they sound like the truth." We should not mistake the lies surrounding this amendment for the truth. Issue 1 backers falsely claim that pregnant women experiencing complications like miscarriages and ectopic pregnancies are not protected under Ohio law. The Ohio Department of Health directly refuted this lie, and protections for medical emergencies remain in Ohio law, if Issue 1 fails. Supporters of the amendment also claim that Issue 1 will keep the government out of our lives. These are the same voices trying to dismantle our families by allowing the abortion industry to perform abortions on minors without parental consent.

We urge our brothers and sisters in Christ to be discerning and seek the truth as you vote on this important amendment. Spend time in God's word, talk to one another, and read the amendment carefully. Most importantly, seek God in prayer. We are confident that when you do, you will see this amendment for what it truly is: an extreme attack on women, children, and our state.

Let us show our love for our neighbors by courageously voting no on Issue 1.

Together, in the mighty name of Jesus,

Dr. Jeremy Westbrook
Executive Director
State Convention of Baptists in Ohio

John Wootton
Superintendent
Ohio Ministry Network (Assemblies of God)

Ronald Martin
Administrative Bishop
Church of God in Ohio

Rodney Jackson
President
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