

To the church in Ohio, our brothers and fellow laborers in the gospel:
Greetings in Christ Jesus.

Background

Like you, we rejoiced last June at the news that the Supreme Court's Dobbs v. Jackson decision had overturned Roe v. Wade. For nearly fifty years that infamous ruling clouded our national conscience, handicapped state and local attempts to protect the unborn and lulled our nation into a state of complacency. The legacy of Roe is over 63 million babies killed and a majority of Americans who have hardened their hearts against the preborn.

In light of the Dobbs decision, the pro-abortion lobby has adopted a new and highly effective strategy: state constitutional amendments. Our home state of Michigan became the third in a succession of states to fall prey to this new tactic last November when Proposition 3 narrowly passed with 56% of the vote.

After its passage, we watched with dismay as overnight all of Michigan's protections for unborn children and their mothers were stripped away. Under our newly amended state constitution abortion is legal through all nine months of pregnancy and any attempt by our legislature to protect the lives of preborn children and pregnant women is deemed unconstitutional.

Ohio's Challenge

Now, it has come to our attention that in Ohio two well-funded pro-abortion coalitions, Protect Choice Ohio, and Ohioans for Reproductive Freedom, are working together on a nearly identical ballot initiative to amend your state constitution this November. This amendment poses a serious threat to the lives of the preborn, to gender dysphoric children and to parental rights in your state.

In the months ahead, we have no doubt that the church in Ohio will be bombarded, as we were last year, with the message that abortion is "healthcare" for women and that Ohio must restore the "rights enjoyed under Roe." Ephesians 5:11 exhorts us to "Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness but rather to expose them." As ministers of the gospel, we know that the whole counsel of God testifies to the dignity and value of human beings as God's image bearers. We also know that abortion not only destroys the lives of unborn children, but that it leaves women deeply emotionally and spiritually scarred.

We write to you now, urging you to immediately begin fortifying your flock against the lies of the enemy. Equip your congregation to preserve the sanctity of human life and reject this pro-abortion constitutional amendment.

Actions to Take

Together for Life Ohio (www.togetherforlifeohio.org) has compiled an excellent library of pastoral resources, including a sample sermon, congregational statements, and ideas for how to lead your congregation in prayer, as well as materials addressing the specifics of this amendment and how your church can respond in keeping with 501 (c)(3) regulations.

Other Ohio resources such as the Center for Christian Virtues and Ohio Right to Life are eager to support you as you lead your church during this pivotal time.

Our experience in Michigan showed us that some churches will step up in significant ways quickly, while others will wait until the campaign effort is far under way, limiting their impact and ability to preserve the lives of children in Ohio. **We plead with you to act quickly and courageously in the defense of the most vulnerable this year.**

While we grieve that Michigan's laws no longer protect the youngest members of our society, we have great hope that God in His mercy will raise up clergy to respond in truth and grace and allow Ohio to reject this amendment in November.

May the God of all mercies equip and bless you in this good work.

Grace and peace,

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