

TALK ABOUT PROPOSAL 3 by Jim Hynes October 1-2, 2022

My name is Jim Hynes and my wife Barbara and I are members of Holy Spirit Parish.

I am here, on Respect Life Sunday weekend, to speak with you on behalf of the Diocese of Lansing's Office of Marriage & Family Life.

In less than 40 days most of us will go to the polls to vote on Proposal 3. Within the next three minutes, I will attempt to explain what Proposal 3 is, and why so many of us are committed to opposing its passage.

Proposal 3, if passed, will add a 323-word amendment into the Constitution of the State of Michigan. The amendment was crafted by a coalition of pro-abortion groups led by Planned Parenthood and the ACLU.

Proposal 3 seeks to place unregulated abortion through the moment of birth into the Michigan constitution. If this amendment were to pass, Michigan will have the most permissive abortion law in the country and one of the most permissive abortion laws in the world.

This is not a campaign exaggeration. Because when it comes to constitutional law, words really matter. Two examples:

One: Proposal 3 never uses the word "adult" to describe who would be impacted by it. Instead, it confers an explicit, fundamental right to quote, "every individual," without any age limit. So parental consent would likely no longer be required for teenagers seeking contraception, sterilization, or abortion.

Two: While Proposal 3 says that the state, quote, "may regulate the provision of abortion care after fetal viability" it qualifies this by stating that, quote, "in no circumstance shall the state prohibit an abortion" deemed necessary to protect the physical or mental health of a pregnant individual. This mental health caveat has been used in other jurisdictions as the legal pretext for abortion on demand. The same would undoubtedly be true in Michigan.

Support for Proposal 3 rides on the swell of public reaction to the U.S. Supreme Court's Dobbs decision on June 24th. It overturned Roe v. Wade, Planned Parenthood v. Casey and decades of federal court restrictions on state law regulating abortion.

If you remember nothing else, remember this: The Proposal 3 amendment does not restore the Roe status quo. Instead, its stated purpose is to, quote, "invalidate state laws conflicting with this amendment." What that means is that Proposal 3, if passed, would likely strike down dozens of existing Michigan laws already in place to protect women, protect unborn children, and prevent taxpayer-funded abortions. The vast majority of these laws were not only permitted under Roe v Wade but were vigorously enforced. Proposal 3 is so extreme that it will invalidate laws that even Roe v Wade protected.

This radical proposal even confers a constitutional right to sterilization for, quote, “every individual” with no stipulation as to sex or age limit. Invoking this constitutional right could allow a gender confused teen to obtain sterilizing procedures, such as puberty blockers, without parental consent or even knowledge.

What should we do? First, of course, we need to pray, fast, and give alms or, as Bishop Boyea puts it, we need to Fight Like Heaven. Many of us have already embarked upon a 54-Day Rosary Novena that will conclude on the eve of polling day. I would encourage you to join in.

Second comes action: Most importantly, please read Proposal 3 for yourself. Not just the 95-word summary that will appear on the ballot paper but the full text of the 323-word amendment that will not be on the ballot paper. The full text of Proposal 3 can be found on the Michigan Secretary of State webpage. Then talk to others, friends, family and the person behind you at Kroger or Home Depot. Volunteer to knock on doors. Sign up to make phone calls. In short, pray about it and then do what you can.

As Bishop Boyea reassures us: Our time is short. Our task is great. The Lord, however, always provides.

Let us work cheerfully and tirelessly knowing that “His grace is sufficient”.

I will be in the Narthex after Mass with copies of the ballot language, the actual wording of the amendment and some flyers with additional information about this amendment.

Thank you.