

MEMORANDUM

To: Molly Gray, Lieutenant Governor
Fr: Jahnessa Ryea
Re: Prop 5
Date: 31 March 2021

Background:

- *Prop 5 is a proposed amendment to Vermont's Constitution that will ensure everyone has the right to reproductive freedom.*
- *Exact wording to be implemented into Constitution “*
- *Article 22. Personal reproductive liberty. That an individual's right to personal reproductive autonomy is central to the liberty and dignity to determine one's own life course and shall not be denied or infringed unless justified by a compelling State interest achieved by the least restrictive means.” (Ballotpedia and Legislature.vt.gov)*
- Supported by ACLU of Vermont
 - o League of Women Voters of Vermont
 - o University of Vermont Medical Center
- Prop 5 must be passed by two consecutive legislatures before going to Vermont voters on election day in November 2022 (PPNNE)
 - o Soonest Prop 5 could take effect is 2022

Speaking Order/Attendees:

Suggested Speaking Points:

- **Passing Prop. 5 is extremely important as it will protect Vermonters regardless of bills introduced/passed in DC.**
 - o **The Supreme Court will lean to the right for the foreseeable future, and we must protect the rights of those that may be overturned by the overturning of Roe v. Wade**
- **It is not just about the right to an abortion, it is about having reproductive freedom, which includes the right to become pregnant and carry a pregnancy to term; to choose or refuse sterilization; to choose abortion; and to choose or refuse contraception (PPNNE)**

Attachments:

(include, as applicable, any background documents you think should be read before the meeting or event)

When memorandum is complete, save with any attachments ideally as one PDF. Memorandums should be submitted to Hazel, Chief of Staff, no later than 4pm the day before the event.

https://www.plannedparenthoodaction.org/uploads/filer_public/b2/38/b238c9e4-8217-46bf-8f72-8b30b412509c/pr5_one_pager_spring2020.pdf

<https://www.plannedparenthoodaction.org/planned-parenthood-vermont-action-fund/prop-5>

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/CALENDAR/sc210331.pdf#page=1>

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/PR.5>

<https://ballotpedia.org/>

[Vermont Proposal 5, Right to Personal Reproductive Autonomy Amendment \(2022\)#cite_note-quotedisclaimer-2](#)

Example Public Statement:

“As both the House and Senate voted in favor of getting Proposition 5 on the ballots in November 2022.....

Proposition 5 will ensure that Vermont remains a state that grants all of its citizens the civil right to reproductive freedoms. I am an avid supporter of Pro-Choice legislation, and believe that women have the right to make their own reproductive choices.

The rights of women are at risk. This Proposition will keep Vermonters protected from a right-leaning Supreme Court that may choose to overturn Roe v. Wade. According to Planned Parenthood of Northern New England, “if Roe is overturned, one in three women of reproductive age could live in states where abortion is not only overturned, but criminalized”, we cannot be one of those states.

I am in full support of Article 2 amending the Vermont Constitution in such a way that will ensure reproductive safety and health of women in this state for the foreseeable future. I encourage other states to protect the reproductive rights of their citizens by adding an amendment to their constitution.