

Thank you to the Vermont House Committee on Human Services for holding space for community members to share our thoughts and opinions. My name is Alessia and I am a student studying social work at Champlain College. I am writing to voice my fierce, unwavering support of the Reproductive Liberty Amendment. The autonomy over one's body is an unalienable right that all Vermonters deserve to possess regardless of race, gender, sexuality, occupation, or religion. The right to choose or deny birth control measures, procedures like an abortion, to engage in intercourse, and if/when to start a family resides solely within the individual. Proposition 5 puts the power in the peoples hands to make educated, safe decisions on their own bodies. Abortions are common medical procedures that should be available at anytime for any reason. We can no longer rely on the Supreme Court to uphold this right, so it is vital that you, the Vermont House Committee on Human Services and the Vermont General Assembly, vote yes on Prop 5. Thank you.

Alessia Hu

To: Vermont State Legislators
From Valerie Graham, M.D.
30 January, 2022

I was a practicing doctor in Vermont a year before the 1973 passage of the Roe v. Wade law that legalized abortion in the United States. In 1972, the Vermont Supreme Court ruled that the prohibition of abortions was illegal in Vermont, in that it did not include equal penalties and/or protections for practitioners who provided abortions and clients who requested them. The Vermont Women's Health Center was formed to provide broad reproductive care, including, but not limited to, abortions. Needless to say, the VWHC was busy, and saved many women from back-room abortionists or self-inflicted, often disastrous, attempts at self-induced abortions. Before Roe v. Wade became law, I had seen and/or heard about women with complications of illicit abortions, which sometimes resulted in sterility, severe infections or even death. It happens that women may NEED an abortion! Think of the 11-year-old, regularly raped by her mother's boyfriend, or even by her own father — or of the woman with 6 children, barely coping on her husband's meager farm income and regular drunken demands. One such came to the clinic as soon as she had managed to save enough money from her small "housekeeping" allowance, and could get away without her home-based farmer husband demanding to know where she was going and why. Alas, that woman, one among a number like her, had had to wait too long — when she got to the out-patient-only clinic, her pregnancy was too far advanced for a safe out-patient abortion — this woman (not the only one to suffer this fate) became mentally ill after delivering, and ended up in a locked ward, leaving her by-then 7 children motherless.

Repealing Roe v. Wade will not stop desperate women from seeking abortions. It will only cause needless tragedy, affecting not only these women, but also their families and those who love them,.

Please consider carefully your vote on this.

50 years ago I found no way to end my pregnancy as a result of date rape.

My parents arranged a quiet admission to the Lund Home in Burlington. There I gave birth to a little girl that changed my life, very much for the better. I'm so thankful

I wasn't able to get the abortion I so desperately wanted. And so grateful for my daughter

who brought joy to all our lives.

Abortion should be allowed under certain circumstances. But it should be tightly regulated and according to situations governed by MDs.

Please don't make abortion like shopping at

Walmart or as a form of contraception.

Patsy Ahrens

We say and display the flags Black Lives Matter YET we as a state are trying to push through a state constitutional change endorsing abortion...the murder of a fetal life. If black lives matter then one cannot condone murder of those black lives !

Stop the semantics, murder is murder!!

Patricia G.

Coyle

Dear Human Services Committee Representatives,

I was honored to be in the (virtual) presence of so many thoughtful speakers last evening. My personal story, offered in support of Proposal Five, could not come close to the combined power of the testimony of those in favor of its passage. I imagine myself gathering all the strands of wisdom represented by the speakers' comments into an invaluable gift of lived experience, much of which mirrors my own. The weight of testimony, offered from so many different perspectives, falls so heavily on the side of ensuring that women have the ability to choose parenthood when they are able to meet a child's needs cannot be refuted or ignored. I believe that every child should be wanted and welcomed. The recent attacks on abortion care have brought into sharp focus just how precarious reproductive freedom now is. Repressive laws will not stop abortion they will only force it dangerously underground. I urge you to support Proposal 5 to draw a bright and clear line between regressive legislation and Vermont's support for a woman's right to have control over her reproductive decisions.

Respectfully,

Natalee Braun, PhD

I wish to support this amendment to provide protection of women's freedom to choose to have abortions. As the father of a daughter, I know that she should always have the choice to have any medical procedure performed on her. I believe that the U.S. Supreme Court made appropriate choices in deciding Roe v. Wade in 1973, in recognizing the right to choose as a constitutionally protected right. I am very concerned that the current U.S. Supreme Court is too close to reversing that decision, and I think it is important that the State of Vermont protect the right to choose within our borders. Tim Swartz Northfield, VT 05663

To whom it may concern,

Thank you to the Vermont House Committee on Human Services for holding space for community members to share our thoughts and opinions. My name is Sydney Partin and I am a junior studying social work at the University of Vermont. I am writing to voice my fierce, unwavering support of the Reproductive Liberty Amendment. The autonomy over one's body is an unalienable right that all Vermonters deserve to possess regardless of race, gender, sexuality, occupation, or religion. The right to choose or deny birth control measures, procedures like an abortion, to engage in intercourse, and if/when to start a family resides solely within the individual. Proposition 5 puts the power in the peoples hands to make educated, safe decisions on their own bodies. Abortions are common medical procedures that should be available at anytime for any reason. We can no longer rely on the Supreme Court to uphold this right, so it is vital that you, the Vermont House of Representatives, vote yes on Prop 5. Thank you.

Best,

Sydney Partin (she/they)

The University of Vermont, Department of Social Work