



Virginia Reproductive Equity Alliance Constitutional Amendment (HJ519) Messaging

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As supporters of abortion access, we are joining together to reclaim our freedom to control our lives and safely care for ourselves, our families, and our communities.

- We are introducing a constitutional amendment that will allow voters to secure the right to reproductive freedom and ensure that the government can't take away this critical health care.
- A constitutional amendment would guarantee that the state cannot deny or interfere with an individual's reproductive freedom in their most personal decisions, including their fundamental right to choose an abortion.

This amendment gives Virginians the freedom to make their own decisions about their health, economic security, and future, not the government.

- Being denied an abortion can have devastating economic consequences and drive people deeper into poverty.
- We've seen how the lack of abortion access makes it harder for people to get lifesaving medical care for miscarriages, ectopic pregnancies, and other pregnancy complications.
- Abortion is about safety, security, and necessary healthcare.

Taking action now is critical to restoring the protections we lost with the overturning of *Roe v Wade*.

- When abortion care isn't accessible, it affects us all, wherever we live.
- In states that have banned abortion, clinics are closing, and people are left with fewer options during pregnancy.
- In states where abortion remains legal, clinics are grappling with an influx of patients from around the country, and many people still struggle to access the care they need.

We can permanently guarantee the right to abortion by amending Virginia's constitution through the constitutional amendment process.

- This process is a multi-year effort that must pass the General Assembly two years in a row with an intervening House election. (For Ex: 2023-2024 or 2025-2026)



Tough Q&As:

1. Does this amendment mean there will be NO restrictions/regulations on abortion?

No. Abortion providers are already regulated just like any other outpatient medical office. Also, abortion is a very common procedure and has a less than half percent complication rate. (Guttmacher)

2. We have parental notification and consent laws here in Virginia. Would this amendment strip away parents' rights? Would minors be able to have an abortion in secret?

This amendment does not explicitly address Virginia's laws regarding access to abortion for minors.

3. Would this amendment allow partial-birth abortion?

This is a made-up term that has no basis in reality, science, or the practice of medical care. Claiming otherwise is a scare tactic that seeks to distract from the reality that unnecessary restrictions on access to reproductive healthcare do far more to harm pregnant people and their pregnancies than laws protecting access.

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It's impossible to anticipate all the personal and medical circumstances that unfold during the course of a pregnancy. Every pregnancy is different. We need to acknowledge the complexities of medical decisions and respect patients' and families' decisions.

4. Would this amendment allow abortion up and through birth?

This is a misleading question because this is not how abortion care works. This inflammatory misinformation is false, and the out-of-touch people spreading it have one thing in mind – to ban all abortions.

5. Vaccination Response

This amendment does not have any effect on Virginia's current regulations and requirements regarding vaccinations because the amendment concerns only reproductive freedom.