

AUG 12 2022

August 10, 2022

Attorney General Vargo,

Thank you for stepping up to fill the role of Attorney General in our great state. I hope things are going well for you in your new position.

I am reaching out regarding the abortion ballot measure explanation that has been released from your office and to see if there's any possibility of amending it, as I believe the current wording will cause confusion among SD voters. My intent is not to be a critic, but to express my concerns in a way that I believe will best serve South Dakotans.

As I read the explanation of the abortion ballot measure, the tone and wording struck me as written by someone who is pro-abortion. I know you are striving for a neutral explanation, but the wording comes across as favorable towards the measure. In addition, the wording has a clear "legalese" tone rather than a layman's explanation of the measure. I believe the latter would better serve South Dakotans as they do their own research and make their own decisions.

Our organization will be working hard to oppose this measure, but my request today isn't that you write the explanation in a way that opposes the measure. I believe the following changes would put the explanation in a more neutral position and clear up the confusion.

Opening Statement Feedback:

This amendment essentially codifies *Roe v. Wade*. Would you consider changing the language to something like **"This amendment would place into our constitution a framework of abortion policies similar to the *Roe v. Wade* decision of 1973. Abortion would always be allowed during the first trimester, usually allowed in the second trimester, and allowed in the third trimester if the mother's health is at risk."** This is a straight-forward statement that doesn't lean either way and explains the measure in layman's terms. Both sides can read the amendment and reasonably conclude that the amendment is equivalent to *Roe v. Wade*.

Second Paragraph Feedback:

The explanation is written accurately, but not in layman's terms. Would you consider changing the language to something like, **"The amendment establishes that during the first trimester, the state cannot place any regulations on the practice of abortion. The decision must be left solely to the judgement of the pregnant woman."**

Third Paragraph Feedback:

This section of the explanation is the cloudiest. I believe the average citizen would read this paragraph and not understand what is being said. Would you consider changing the language to something like, **"In the second trimester abortion would generally be**

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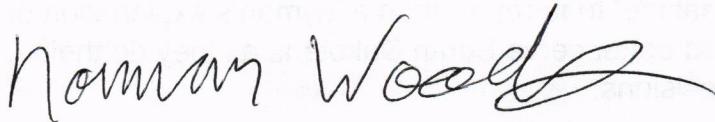
allowed, but the amendment allows for some regulations to be placed on the practice. These regulations are only allowed if they are related to the mother's health."

Fourth Paragraph Feedback:

Would you consider changing this language to something like **"In the third trimester, the amendment allows the state to regulate or prohibit abortion except for cases where the doctor believes the abortion is necessary for the 'life or health' of the mother."**

I believe these changes would better explain what the measure does and would help clarify in voter's minds what they are voting on. I appreciate your consideration.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments.



Norman Woods
Director
Family Heritage Alliance Action
605-939-8006
Norman@familyheritagealliance.org

PO Box 329
R.C. 57709

From: norman familyheritagealliance.org <norman@familyheritagealliance.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 10, 2022 2:20 PM
To: ATG Help
Subject: [EXT] Ballot Comment

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