



The people of the state of Mississippi have an important amendment to vote on this November.

There is a proposal to amend the state constitution to include the following:

*Article III of the constitution of the state of Mississippi is hereby amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION TO READ: Section 33. Person defined. As used in this Article III of the state constitution, "The term 'person' or 'persons' shall include every human being from the moment of fertilization, cloning or the functional equivalent thereof." This initiative shall not require any additional revenue for implementation.*

The National Perinatal Association (NPA) is a multi-disciplinary organization of doctors (including pediatricians, neonatologists, and ob/gyn), nurses (including nurse practitioners and nursing researchers) midwives, health educators, administrators, lawyers and parents, dedicated to improving the health of pregnant women and babies. NPA has serious concerns for the health and well-being of women and young families if amendment 26 is passed.

**NPA RECOMMENDS TO THE CITIZENS OF MISSISSIPPI THAT A "NO" VOTE IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF MOTHERS AND BABIES.**

NPA is gravely concerned that this amendment will complicate and interfere with the delivery of effective and safe healthcare for mothers and babies alike. This initiative has a multitude of unintended consequences, such as the following scenarios:

1. It could outlaw fertility treatments
2. It could outlaw some forms of birth control and contraceptive devices.
3. It could interfere with treatments that are beneficial and/or lifesaving to the mother.
  - a. Prevention of effective cancer treatment that is harmful to the fetus but life saving for the mother.
  - b. It could interfere with treatment and endanger the life of the mother in a tubal pregnancy when the fetus has little chance of survival to viability.
  - c. It could interfere with many other treatments provided for mothers during pregnancy that are life saving for the mother and the fetus may not have been spared.

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**The National Perinatal Association promotes the health and well being of mothers and infants enriching families, communities and our world.**

4. It could result in criminal charges against mothers suffering a miscarriage or other pregnancy complication.
5. It could result in criminal charges against well meaning physicians providing state of the art health care to mothers and babies.
6. It could result in criminal charges against a mother for many other activities during pregnancy, such as downhill skiing, or windsurfing, or the many other physical activities that could potentially harm a mother and fetus.
7. It could result in criminal charges against a mother for using non-prescription drugs such as aspirin or other ordinary substances that pregnant women are advised against using.

This amendment requires physicians to literally police patients for any risk. Such policing undermines the ability of health care professionals to provide confidential, high quality care to patients. Such interference in the doctor/patient relationship is unethical and immoral.

The National Perinatal Association recommends a "NO" vote for amendment 26 on the November 8 ballot. It will interfere with effective and safe health care delivery to mothers and babies and have many other unintended consequences that we cannot possibly even fathom at this time

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