

RESOLUTION 4:

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE OHIO CONSTITUTION, REGARDING THE RIGHT TO REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM WITH PROTECTIONS FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY

WHEREAS the 2022-2023 Business and Professional Women of Ohio Legislative platform health plank states: “**HEALTH:** Actively work to strengthen and enforce legal protection for full access to all health care services including reproductive choice, funding for research into and protection for women’s health care and educational programs concerning women’s health issues” and

WHEREAS, over the course of the last seven years, the Ohio Legislators have worked to decrease a woman’s right to choose and have made significant changes to laws in Ohio prohibiting a women’s right to choose, and

WHEREAS there is a current movement to provide a constitutional amendment to protect a women’s right to choose, and

WHEREAS the proposed amendment would amend Article I of the Ohio Constitution by adding Section 22 title “The Right to Reproductive Freedom with Protections for Health and Safety.” and

WHEREAS the proposed amendment provides:

1. Every individual has a right to make and carry out one’s own reproductive decisions, including but not limited to decisions on contraception, fertility treatment, continuing one’s own pregnancy, miscarriage care, and abortion.
2. The State shall not, directly, or indirectly, burden, penalize, prohibit, interfere with, or discriminate against either an individual’s voluntary exercise of this right or a person or entity that assists an individual exercising this right, unless the State demonstrates that it is using the least restrictive means to advance the individual’s health in accordance with widely accepted and evidence-based standards of care.
3. However, abortion may be prohibited after fetal viability. But in no case may such an abortion be prohibited if in the professional judgment of the pregnant patient’s treating physician it is necessary to protect the pregnant patient’s life or health.
4. As used in this Section, “Fetal viability” means “the point in a pregnancy when, in the professional judgment of the pregnant patient’s treating physician, the fetus has a significant likelihood of survival outside the uterus with reasonable measures. This is determined on a case-by-case basis;” and “State” includes any governmental entity and political subdivision.

WHEREAS The Ohio Constitution Article II Section 1a – 1b states: “Constitutional amendments or statutes proposed by initiative petitions to be submitted directly to the voters must be filed with Secretary of State (125 days before general election)” making July 5, 2023, the deadline for signatures to the petition for the proposed amendment to be on the November 7, 2023.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Ohio Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW/OHIO) will educate themselves and others regarding the proposed amendment, by reading the amendment and signing a local petition on or before July 5, 2023.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the 2023-24 BPW/OHIO Legislative Chair and the 2023-24 BPW/OHIO Legislative Consultant are hereby directed to monitor proposed amendment and keep the membership of BPW/OHIO informed of any developments regarding the efforts to have the amendment on the November 2023 ballot.

FURTHER BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the 2023-24 BPW/OHIO Legislative Chair, in conjunction with our 2023-24 Regional Legislative Chairs shall encourage the membership to vote to approve the amendment to the Ohio Constitution.

AFFIRMED AND ADOPTED THIS 21st **DAY OF** May, **2023.**