

Amendment 4 Paper

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“The human being is to be respected and treated as a person from the moment of conception; and therefore from the same moment his rights as a person must be recognized” (Donum vitae I, 1). The Catholic Church sees unborn life as equally as important as another life but Amendment 4 — by allowing broader access to abortion — has countless ethical, moral and health implications if passed.

The longer time to allow abortions has serious ethical concerns against the teachings of the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church teaches that life is sacred from the moment of conception, seen in “From the time that the ovum is fertilized, a new life is begun which is neither that of the father nor of the mother; it is rather the life of a new human being with his own growth. It would never be made human if it were not human already.” (Evangelium Vitae). Ethical concerns come from the idea of late-term abortions because the child is seen, by the Catholic Church, as viable at this stage and any stage. The Catholic Church believes that everything has a soul, even unborn life, so late-term abortion is seen as ethically wrong.

The Catholic Church sees abortion as an intrinsic evil that goes against natural law, which can cause numerous moral implications. Amendment 4 weakens the protection of unborn lives, leading to views allowing more abortion and undermining the moral framework of the Catholic Church that all human beings were created in the image and likeness of God. Amendment 4’s elimination of parental consent within abortions, removes the parental responsibility diminishing the idea of a family seen in the Catholic Church. Parents have a special responsibility because “They are the first to proclaim the faith to their children. They are responsible for nurturing the vocation of each child, showing by example how to live the married life, and taking special care if a child might be called to the priesthood or consecrated life.”(USCCB). Amendment 4 morally undermines this idea and the sanctity of unborn lives by allowing heavy moral decisions with

less opinions and more freedom while encouraging less accountability. Amendment 4 also allows the individual to put their safety first in accordance with what science teaches.

Catholic teaching emphasizes the importance of protecting both the health of the mother and the child. The Church recognizes that in rare cases where the life of the mother is in grave danger hard choices must be made, but “Direct, intended termination of pregnancy from conception is condemned.”. The vagueness in Amendment 4, especially in the lack of definition in ‘health care provider’ and ‘health reasons’ causes countless health implications to the mother and child. The vagueness can lead to diminished medical standards and a lack of accountability that might further harm the mother. By allowing more “unprofessional” physicians to make decisions on abortion leads to danger of the health of the mother and child. But, also, Amendment 4 prioritizes the mother’s safety, protecting their choice.

From a Catholic view, Amendment 4 has serious ethical and moral implications by promoting wider access to abortion, hurting the sanctity of life, and weakening parental rights. And the vagueness surrounding Amendment 4, specifically medical consent and provider qualifications lead to lower care and greater risks to women's health. Alternatively, Amendment 4 also gives the benefit of a more free choice to the woman that might need an abortion, due to health or personal reasons. Regardless of church teachings, Amendment 4 provides wider access to abortion to all women — encouraging and guarding their own choice and personal ethical, moral and health implications.

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