

Our Lady of Lourdes Academy

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Vote No on 4

“Amendment to Limit Government Interference with Abortion” sounds awfully compelling doesn’t it? Behind the manipulative and vague wording of this potential amendment, the truth lies hidden between the lines. What is worded as “government interference” may seem daunting, but what Amendment 4 is trying to prevent is the protection of the innocent lives of unborn babies. The state of Florida has a long history of dispute over the subject of abortion, as clearly seen by their active track record of changing laws regarding it. What is truly baffling is that my own school nurse can not provide me non-prescription pills without my parents’ signature, but Amendment 4- if successfully enacted- will allow me to undergo an abortion procedure with only a “notification” to my parents, not even consent.

The ethical implications of this amendment are a very controversial subject. In the United States, the pro-life or pro-choice initiatives are both very passionate movements. After participating in the March for Life this past January with the Archdiocese of Miami, I was finally able to understand the ethics behind abortion. After hearing different personal testimonies that morning, I realized that while every woman has the right to make decisions about her own body, abortion involves more than just *her* body—it also concerns the life of an unborn baby. Although the mother has a say in her life, who is going to stand up for the baby’s? As an American community, we must come together to realize that a baby is alive from the moment of conception.

With research done by Pew Research Center, “Among U.S. adults who take the view that abortion should be illegal in all cases without exception, fully 86% also say abortion is always morally wrong” (*Social and Moral Considerations on Abortion*). Aligning with Catholic Social Teachings is our civic duty as children of God. Catholic Social Teaching opposes abortion by instilling the belief that “Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception” (CCC 2270-2271). To put it bluntly, abortion is the deliberate murder of an innocent person, and saying yes to Amendment 4 contradicts the golden rule, essentially saying yes to taking God’s power of deciding when it is a person’s time to pass away.

More than just the ethical and moral dangers of Amendment 4, the severe medical implications of abortion are extremely dangerous. Some immediate side effects and risks include blood clots in the uterus, pelvic infection, incomplete abortion, and the list goes on. Besides the health risks for the mother, the actual procedure is violent and inhumane. A vital part of abortion side effects is mental health. Mothers around the world who underwent an abortion reported signs of guilt and “60% reported that they felt “part of me died” after their abortions” (*What Are the Mental Health Effects of Abortion?*) Abortion is associated with severe increases in anxiety, drug/alcohol use, and suicidal behaviors.

Vote no on Amendment 4. The Catholic Church supports this choice in hopes of eliminating this potential threat to society. It is our job to do everything in our power to prevent what this amendment encourages, and use the conscience God gave us to instill good. There is inherent value in every born or unborn life, so we must advocate for a society that nurtures the most vulnerable among us.

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