

Prepared Testimony of Eileen McNeil
Before the Michigan House of Representatives Committee on Judiciary
And the Senate Committee on Health Policy
March 1, 2023

Distinguished Chair and members of the Committee: Thank you for providing me the opportunity to provide testimony today. My name is Eileen McNeil, President of Citizens for Traditional Values and here to testify in opposition to the package of House bills 4006, 4031, 4032 and recognize they are also linked to the Senate Bills SB 2, 37, 38,39,93 that are in the Senate Health Policy Committee this afternoon.

As you may know our organization is deeply committed to the truth that God has created all human life in His image and that every person has positive value and deserves respect. For that reason we speak up on behalf of the unborn AND on behalf of the mothers who walk through the many twists and turns of pregnancy and ultimately hold the responsibility for the outcome of whether these children are born or aborted. BOTH are worthy of protection by the law.

Which is why I am here to exhort you to reconsider and rewrite these laws to INCLUDE protections for women before you gut all the protections that Michigan had in place under Roe v. Wade. That is, after all, the STATED goal of the groups behind Proposal 3 amendment.

I quote the Detroit Free Press from their article on Aug. 16, 2022:

“The ACLU of MI and Planned Parenthood of MI and the non-profit Michigan Voices – characterize it as a way to resuscitate the rights previously protected under Roe.

“The Supreme Court made its ruling. Passing this amendment simply restores the same protections that Michiganders had for five decades under Roe v. Wade, “ said Darci McConnell , a spokesperson for the Reproductive Freedom for ALL campaign.

That is the message that was sold to all Michiganders and the Proposal passed. Repealing the 1931 law without replacing it with protections for women – such as those we currently have in our MI laws, that you are seeking to repeal, is unconscionable. Our MI laws have real protections for women – such as regulations on abortion clinics so they are clean and following medical standards, regulations on medical personnel to make sure they are qualified – and regulations on pharmacies as well.

Because of Proposal 3, the 1931 law won't prevent any abortions except extreme late term abortions. Aborting babies at any stage is abhorrent, and Proposal 3 will allow this extremely late stage to be legal. But to add insult to injury, repealing the 1931 law will also take away the criminal felony charges that could be brought to someone who induces an abortion that ends up harming or killing a woman.

Why would we want to remove this law?

With the passage of Proposal 3 Michigan became one of the few states in the entire nation that allows abortion at any time, at any stage by anyone. The Guttmacher Institute just published a chart showing what states prohibit what abortions and when. It is very enlightening. **44 states** prohibit some abortions after a certain point in pregnancy. I included the link for you to see their statistics. *

But Michigan is clearly an outlier in the **WRONG** direction. There is room to work on these bills. Proposal 3 is not settled, and I anticipate there will be many lawsuits over the scope and interpretation of this unjust law. Repealing the 1931 law and HB 4006, 4031, 4032 before judicial input is rash and imprudent.

I implore you to vote no on these bills today.

Eileen McNeil
President
Citizens for Traditional Values

[*State Bans on Abortion Throughout Pregnancy | Guttmacher Institute](#)

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44 states prohibit some abortions after a certain point in pregnancy.

- 12 states ban abortion.
- 1 state bans abortion at six weeks LMP (last menstrual period).
- 2 states ban abortion at 15 weeks LMP.
- 1 state bans abortion at 20 weeks LMP.
- 9 states ban abortion at 22 weeks LMP (20 weeks postfertilization in state law) on the unscientific grounds that a fetus can feel pain at that point. (Note that abortion is unavailable in two of these states because there are no abortion providers.)
- 4 states ban abortion at 24 weeks LMP.
- 14 states impose a ban at viability.
- 1 state imposes a ban in the third trimester (beginning at 25 weeks LMP)