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## Talk to Your “Pro-choice” Friends about Issue 1

By **Laura Curran**  
Executive Director

Often, it's difficult to approach our “pro-choice” friends and family about Life issues. Sometimes, awkward and contentious discussions ensue. However, Issue 1, which will be on the ballot in the November election, offers the potential for consensus around five key points.

Regardless of where one stands on the abortion issue in general or political party affiliation, reasonable people can agree:

- **The medical safety of women seeking abortions should be protected.**
- **Safety standards for abortion clinics should be enforced.**
- **Parents should retain the right to be informed and give consent to the dispensing of medications and to medical procedures being performed on their children.**
- **Safeguards should be in place which protect women and children from being trafficked.**
- **Painful abortions of full-term babies that, if born, could survive outside the womb should be prohibited.**

The language in the proposed Ohio constitutional amendment, “Issue 1” is intentionally vague and contains “loopholes” that are sure to mimic the legal ramifications that have occurred in Michigan, Vermont, and California which have passed similar constitutional amendments.

If Issue 1 passes, doctors would no longer be required to examine a pregnant woman, perform an ultrasound to date the pregnancy, rule out a life-threatening ectopic pregnancy or an Rh factor incompatibility, or explain the risks of the procedure ahead of time. Abortions could be performed by non-physicians without assurance of nearby hospital access if complications occur.

Abortion clinics could go unregulated, removing basic standards for safety and cleanliness. Licensing and regular inspections could disappear. Ohioans could expect abortion complications and even deaths to rise.

If Issue 1 passes, a 15-year-old will be able to have an abortion or receive cross-gender hormones without her parents' notification or consent. That same girl could not get Tylenol from the school nurse, have her ears pierced, or get a tattoo without her parents' permission. Parental notification and consent laws have already been nullified by courts in other states with similar language, like Illinois.

An abuser or trafficker could literally coerce this 15-year-old into having an abortion, drive her to the clinic, pay for the abortion, and not be arrested or prosecuted. With this type of protection for the abuser, Ohioans could expect child sexual abuse and trafficking to increase across the state.

If Issue 1 passes, painful late-term abortions on fully-formed babies who, if born, could survive outside the womb, may become legal. Any physician could claim that the abortion is necessary for the woman's physical or emotional “health,” even if that doctor is the abortionist who would benefit financially from performing the procedure.

Abortion is legal in Ohio up to 22 weeks. Contraception, fertility treatments, and miscarriage care have never been at risk. This extreme amendment is a trojan horse. Let's not allow its ambiguous language to cloud our common sense. Issue 1 is unsafe for women, bad for parents, and could permit painful abortions of full-term babies.

Have the conversation. Ask your friends and family to vote NO on Issue 1.

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## DEAR PRO-LIFE FRIENDS OF PCPLUS,

**“Truth will ultimately prevail where there are pains taken to bring it to light.”**

- George Washington

**Truth:** At Pregnancy Center Plus clients are given the opportunity to *learn the truth* ... and given our support to *live the truth*. This is a true gift of great proportion in this current climate of lies and often isolation. There is both strength and consolation in the joy of knowing: each of us is “made in the image and likeness of God.” Born and waiting to be born.

**Truth:** There is also the unreported generational devastation of abortion in one’s family. One’s parents are impacted, as are sisters, brothers, grandparents, aunts, uncles. I had a teary high school senior tell me that his aunt had an abortion so, “Every Thanksgiving I miss my cousin.”

**Truth:** In the middle of today’s confusion and dysfunction, there is an oasis of HOPE, a place where TRUTH flourishes. It is PCPlus. The truth is that prayer remains our constant companion.

**“Therefore, put on the armor of God, that you may be able to resist the evil day and, having done everything, to hold your ground.” – Ephesians 6: 13**

So, stand fast with your loins girded with truth.

God is good!

*Jane Hoffman*

Board Trustee

PCPlus



In 2021, I was with a guy who was emotionally abusive. I was drained from the constant arguing and the anxiety and stress of this unhealthy relationship. I also found myself in some legal problems and spent 10 days in jail.

While I was serving my time, I found out I was pregnant. I was shocked because I didn’t think I could get pregnant. The news of this precious new life growing inside me was the wake-up call I needed. I knew I had to make some drastic changes in my life. I left my toxic boyfriend.

With no medical insurance and no real support system, I was depressed. But I managed to find Pregnancy Center Plus online.

Once I met the caring folks at the Center, my life began to take a new direction. First, they did an ultrasound, and I got to see my baby moving on the screen. I knew then that he would give my life new purpose.

Next, PCPlus arranged for me to have my first prenatal appointment with TriHealth via telehealth at the Center. The TriHealth midwives took all the hassle out of finding a doctor! They connected me with other resources that I badly needed.

Throughout my pregnancy, PCPlus was there for me at every turn. I loved their maternity clothing room where I got to pick out cute clothes to fit my growing shape. I enrolled in their Kickstart program and came weekly to watch a video on childbirth or parenting. Each week, I received a dozen diapers. After watching all 12 videos, they presented me with a new car seat.

In the meantime, a wonderful man, whom I had known in middle school, came back into my life! Richard was my “calm in the storm.” He began attending my doctor’s appointments with me and helped me to stay focused.

Together, we took parenting classes at PCPlus. It was a big commitment to come to all the classes, but we were happy to increase our parenting skills. There, we met other first-time parents. When we graduated, we received a gift certificate for a new crib and mattress. I now had hope that I could be a good mother.

On October 10, 2022 I gave birth to a beautiful baby boy, who we named Rylan. Today, we have a peaceful, happy home. Richard and I are engaged to be married. I truly love him for the man he is and the father he is to my child. I am proud to have a job and have been promoted to assistant manager.

We continue to check in at the Center to let them know how we’re doing and for supplies we need for Rylan. They were so excited to meet little Rylan for the first time! I don’t know how I would have gotten to this positive place in my life without them. I am super grateful!

- Rita, PCPlus client



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## Jennifer Muench

## *makes Saturdays possible!*



Jennifer Muench, RDMS comes to PCPlus after spending 13 years as a sonographer at Fort Hamilton Hospital. She graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a Bachelors in Advanced Medical Imaging, with a concentration in Ultrasound and Nuclear Medicine. She explains, "I chose to follow ultrasound because I loved the one-on-one patient interaction involved with scanning clients." She will be scanning in the evenings and on Saturdays.

*Being open on Saturdays is a real plus in reaching scared pregnant women who pour into the abortion clinic on Saturdays.*

As the first pregnancy help center in the region to offer Saturday hours, now sidewalk counselors can redirect abortion-seeking women to PCPlus for immediate life-affirming care.

Jennifer is married with two daughters. She is a member of St. John the Baptist, Dry Ridge. She enjoys hiking, traveling, and spending time with friends and family. She also runs a home-based cookie business. "I am excited to join the PCPlus family to help pregnant women and their partners choose life."

*We will be launching an updated website in October with a fresh new look and enhanced features. Look for it soon at [SupportPCPlus.org](http://SupportPCPlus.org).*

