

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS AND ELECTIONS
AND THE
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

**Eighty-second Session
March 23, 2023**

The joint meeting of the Senate Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections and the Assembly Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections was called to order by Chair James Ohrenschall at 4:09 p.m. on Thursday, March 23, 2023, in Room 4100 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4412 of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. [Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda. [Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster. All exhibits are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator James Ohrenschall, Chair
Senator Skip Daly, Vice Chair
Senator Nicole J. Cannizzaro
Senator Heidi Seevers Gansert
Senator Lisa Krasner

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assemblywoman Michelle Gorelow, Chair
Assemblywoman Brittney Miller, Vice Chair
Assemblyman Reuben D'Silva
Assemblywoman Cecelia González
Assemblyman C.H. Miller
Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno
Assemblywoman Sabra Newby
Assemblyman Steve Yeager
Assemblyman Rich DeLong
Assemblywoman Jill Dickman
Assemblyman Brian Hibbetts
Assemblyman Richard McArthur

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STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Nicholas Anthony, Policy Analyst
Barbara Young, Committee Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Lindsey Harmon, Planned Parenthood
Caroline Mello Roberson, NARAL Pro-Choice America
Donna West
Laura Campbell
Olivia Rojas
Adrienne Mansanares, President and CEO, Planned Parenthood of the Rocky
Mountains
Stacy Cross, President and CEO, Planned Parenthood Mar Monte
Katherine Schopp
Alyssa Gurule
Alan Morales
Melia Rivers-Johnson
Alejandra Muneton-Carrera, Make the Road Nevada
Vanessa Dunn, Nevada Public Health Association
Cecilia Colling
Tess Opferman, Nevada Women's Lobby
Shanzeh Aslam, Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada
Macy Haverda, Wild West Access Fund of Nevada
Jakki Duron, Wild West Access Fund of Nevada
Sasha Osorio
Yazmine Dominguez
Emily Persaud-Zamora, Silver State Voices
Jordyn Chamizo
Jessica Munger, Silver State Equality
Mary Jean Atran
Cody Hoskins
Lola Shanahan
Erica Roth, Washoe County Public Defender's Office
Sarah Rojas, Planned Parenthood Rocky Mountains
Victoria Ruiz-Marin
Beverly Schreiber

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Carlos Calderon, Nevada Advocates for Planned Parenthood Affiliate
Hailey Lindsley, Planned Parenthood Mar Monte
Bill Sims
Claire Hall
Mathilda Guerrero, Battle Born Progress
Briana Escamilla, Nevada Advocates for Planned Parenthood Affiliate
AJ Huth, The LGBTQ Center of Southern Nevada
Cassie Charles
Daela Gibson
Lucy Schopp
Erika Castro
Yolanda Knaak, Nevada Federation of Republican Women
Emily Mimnaugh, Pacific Justice Institute – Center for Public Policy
Melissa Clement, Nevada Right to Life
Janine Hansen, Nevada Families for Freedom
Lynn Chapman, Independent American Party
Don Nelson, Nevada Right to Life
Susan Hoffecker
Joy Trushenski
Lori Johnson
Virginia Starrett
Casey Rodgers
Richard Nagel
Michelle Austin
C. Tracy Muscari
Theresa DeGraffenreid
Susan Proffitt, Nevada Republican Club
Ray Cordova
Cristiane Mersch, Nevada Right to Life
Nicholas Hendrix
Grace Trujillo
Lorena Cardenas
Manuel Lucas
Clint Hatfield
Yesenia Gonzales
Cyrus Hojjaty
Cassidy Pocock
Cindy Martinez

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Aurora Tangaro
Leslie Quinn
Denise Ashurst
PJ Belanger
Tony Freeman
Andrea Aguilar
Boyd Drube, Real Choices Women's Center
Alida Benson, Nevada Republican Party
Jessica Ansel
Harold Erbacher
Ralph Hoiland
Rachel Puaina
Juan Carlos
Katie Ryan
Roi Sanders-Hillmon
Julie Barger
Maria-Teresa Liebermann-Parraga
Paula Luna
Shelby Swartz
Amber Falgout
Phil Man
Lisa Lynn Chapman
Kevin Hillmon
Jim DeGraffenreid, Nevada Republican Party
Barb Mathers
Renee Rezentos
David Seat
Bob Russo
Charlotte Steward
Colby Dyson
Tim Stoffel
Betsy Strasburg
Julie Burke
Meredyth Keast
James M. Benthin
Karen Stevens
Ken Hansen
Bella Hansen

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Katie Sells
Dana Englekirk
Bill Horne
Mariann Humphrey
Kelly Quinn
Celes Parks
Karl Reinarz
Concetta Tedesco, Catholic Daughters of the Americas
Linda Dunaway
Jackson Stallings
Andy Thompson
Alexandria Slack
Unidentified Testifier

CHAIR OHRENSCHALL:

Today, we are going to hear Senate Joint Resolution (S.J.R.) 7, a proposed amendment to the Nevada Constitution that will be presented by our Majority Leader, Senator Cannizzaro. After her presentation, we will have 45 minutes each for support, opposition and neutral testimony. Once that testimony is completed, another round of time will be allotted, ensuring an opportunity to testify for anyone who did not have the opportunity to speak. We have many interested parties wishing to testify on S.J.R. 7. I will be limiting all testimony in support, opposition and neutral to one minute per speaker in hopes we can accommodate as many people as possible. If you are unable to put all your comments on the record during that allotted time, we are accepting written testimony until the end of the day March 24, 2023.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 7: Proposes to amend the Nevada Constitution to establish certain rights relating to reproductive health. (BDR C-864)

SENATOR NICOLE J. CANNIZZARO (Senatorial District 6):

Senate Joint Resolution 7 proposes to amend the Nevada Constitution to establish constitutional rights to reproductive health care in the State of Nevada. On June 24, 2022, a radical U.S. Supreme Court majority wiped out 50 years of precedent and eliminated a long understood constitutional right to seek an abortion. The results following *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, 142 S.Ct. 2228 (2022) have been horrific. In many states, the Court's decision has become a license to enact legislation that is extreme antichoice. Legislation

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under the guise of being pro-life threatens the health and safety of people from all walks of life with a variety of legitimate medical concerns, even access to birth control. As we approach S.J.R. 7, a guiding principle to keep in the forefront of our minds is that politicians should not be interfering in personal decisions between patients and their doctors when it comes to reproductive care. I will present the amendment ([Exhibit C](#)).

If passed through two Legislative Sessions and approved by the voters, S.J.R. 7 would recognize reproductive freedom as a fundamental right under the Nevada Constitution, putting it on the same level as rights such as speech and religious exercise, affording it considerable legal protection.

We talk so much about providing access to health care in the rural areas of our State that need access to primary services. The Planned Parenthood facility in West Wendover was not rejected because the application violated the law in some way but because of council members' personal feelings about abortion. Hence, some Nevadans will not have access to essential healthcare services. This is a different situation from what existed for nearly 50 years at the national level.

Voters in Nevada deserve another opportunity to weigh in. This bill would let the people of Nevada decide what is best for our State and whether they wish to constitutionally preserve their freedom and autonomy when it comes to making individual decisions regarding reproductive health. That is precisely why I am bringing this legislation before you today. This deserves weighty debate, open dialogue and the voices of all the people. Nevadans should decide if they wish to take action that guarantees reproductive freedom for all. If passed, this amendment would put Nevada's long-standing, freedom-oriented values into our Constitution. It would show that we trust individuals to exercise their own medical decisions, including decisions about reproductive care, and give that individual autonomy, our highest legal protection. We must protect everyone's fundamental freedom to control their own bodies, lives and futures.

LINDSEY HARMON (Planned Parenthood):

The date of June 24, 2022, will forever mark a dark day in history for the United States—a date when this Country took a step backward and turned its back on the one in four people who will have an abortion in their lifetime. The *Dobbs* decision demonstrated the value this Country currently places on

individual freedoms. It has also proven the states' rights argument touted as justification in this ruling was nothing but a veiled attempt to hide the true intentions of what has and continues to be a systemic approach to undermining the constitutional right to abortion. Nevada occupies an important place in this historical timeline. In 1990, the State through referendum protected access to abortion. The forces that overturned *Rowe v. Wade* have their sights set on other forms of care such as birth control and infertility. Changes in medical advances, the political environment and the national abortion landscape demand action. Today, we are asking for enhanced protections for residents and for people traveling here in desperate need of care. These protections belong in the Constitution of Nevada because abortion rights are a fundamental right and serve as a foundation for our basic civil liberties.

In Texas, three women are being prosecuted for simply helping a friend obtain an abortion. In West Wendover, one of our affiliates has been denied a conditional use permit simply because Planned Parenthood provides legal abortions as part of a primary care practice. Despite our history and our protection, we must do more. We are prepared to do what is necessary for our State, founded on the principle that we are, in fact, Battle Born.

CAROLINE MELLO ROBERSON (NARAL Pro-Choice America):

The National Association for the Repeal of Abortion Laws, Pro-Choice America is a nonprofit advocacy organization dedicated to advancing reproductive freedom for all through legislative, political and community organizing. Its organizers in Nevada allow us to organize directly in the community. I will present my written testimony ([Exhibit D](#)).

ASSEMBLYWOMAN NEWBY:

I have a concern about protection for pharmacists. Would the language of the bill cover pharmacists who fill prescriptions or provide medications?

SENATOR CANNIZZARO:

Article 1, Section 25, subsection 4 of the resolution addresses providers of health care which includes pharmacists. There are multiple ways in which different providers may be involved in providing reproductive health care, even something like dispensing birth control. Subsection 4 of S.J.R. 7 ensures there cannot be prosecution or penalization for individuals practicing within their scope of practice.

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ASSEMBLYMAN DELONG:

Can a juvenile girl, say a 12-year-old, give consent under Section 5?

SENATOR CANNIZZARO:

This resolution does not put in place particular laws about consent. That would be for a court to decide if S.J.R. 7 was passed in coordination with the establishment of this right.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

Is there a threat in Nevada to access birth control?

SENATOR CANNIZZARO:

We are living in a different world now. There are rights afforded to each of us simply by a stroke of a pen by the Supreme Court. We are seeing the effects in Nevada as it pertains to birth control. Recently, pharmacies have decided not to dispense birth control because they are afraid of the threat of other states seeking to prosecute or to penalize people seeking birth control. We have seen the manufacturer and distributor, the sole supplier of the medical abortion pill is stating it is not going to dispense in any states. Nevada stands in that same position. In S.J.R. 7, when we are speaking about reproductive care, the decisions regarding birth control, pregnancy, infertility treatments and the like is something left to the provider and the individual. Nevada is not able to safely say we are not under attack because the protection that would otherwise ensure that access exists and is permissible.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

Hospitals and other medical facilities are not required to perform abortions except in cases of emergencies. If a hospital is owned by a Catholic or other Christian organization, it is not required to perform abortions. I do not see any protections for individuals who do not want to participate or hospital facilities that do not want those types of services provided within. What happens to those organizations and individuals?

SENATOR CANNIZZARO:

This resolution has no impact on overturning current statute. Those laws could be challenged, but that would be for a court to decide.

ASSEMBLYMAN YEAGER:

When I first signed onto this bill as a sponsor, I was interested because the bill goes beyond what we would consider to be abortion protection. It includes fundamental rights to reproductive freedom, such as vasectomy and infertility care which would apply to men. What is the purpose and importance of the language of the provisions in Section 25 of S.J.R. 7, and why is it included?

SENATOR CANNIZZARO:

When we speak of reproductive care, abortion often comes to mind. Reproductive care encompasses without limitation prenatal care, postnatal care, vasectomy and infertility care, decisions made between the patient and his or her provider. Every pregnancy is different and affects women in different ways. Senate Joint Resolution 7 is seeking to recognize that it is not just a woman who is carrying a baby or becomes pregnant, it is also a man who is involved in that equation. We must recognize the full litany of situations and understand it will be different person to person under similar circumstances and one pregnancy to the next.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO:

I signed onto this bill as a sponsor because I am a mom, but I am also a mom who went through miscarriages. I have a daughter who can only have children through in vitro fertilization. This bill will protect my rights and my daughter's rights. We are living in a time where we have an obligation to protect our rights now and in the future. I have rights my grandmother did not have and now my granddaughter will not have. I have received emails stating if this bill is passed by the voters, individuals would be forced to have abortions. Is there anything in this resolution to that effect?

SENATOR CANNIZZARO:

No. Nothing in this resolution requires that. To the prior question from Senator Seevers Gansert, nothing obligates a healthcare provider to provide an abortion. Now our children do not or will not have the rights we have had unless there is an opportunity to enshrine those rights. Senate Joint Resolution 7 is an affirmative right that we would be asking voters to put into the Nevada Constitution as part of our constitutional fabric. It would not be subject to the court's overturning of precedent. The work that has been done for prenatal and postnatal care as well as maternal health will continue for future generations.

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ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO:

I am a child who was adopted. I have received emails indicating if this legislation passes, families will be limited and will not be able to adopt.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO:

That is untrue.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN DICKMAN:

Section 25, subsection 2 speaks about the physical or mental health of the pregnant individual. The physical or mental health has often been broadly construed. Could this section allow for abortion up to nine months of pregnancy?

SENATOR CANNIZZARO:

Under Nevada law, *Nevada Revised Statutes* 442.250 provides abortion after Week 24 of pregnancy only if the physician has reasonable cause to believe the abortion is necessary to preserve the life or health of the pregnant woman. Extremely rare are late-term abortions and almost always tied to serious medical issues for mother and child. Subsection 2 allows post-viability regulation of abortion with exceptions to protect the life and health of the mother. Those are preserved in this resolution.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN DICKMAN:

Would this require a court challenge to change the 24 weeks?

SENATOR CANNIZZARO:

This resolution does not change any current Nevada law. Any statutes that currently exist may or may not eventually get reviewed by a court. We are providing guidance and saying this is a fundamental right.

SENATOR SEEVERS GANSERT:

Is informed consent part of the bill?

SENATOR CANNIZZARO:

Senate Joint Resolution 7 does not change what is Nevada law. I cannot speak to every hypothetical, proposed statute that may or may not come before a court. This does not delineate every situation or instance. It states a

fundamental right and a test the court would have to apply. Specific statutes would be up to the court to ultimately decide.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN GORELOW:

I worked with maternal health care and am a cosponsor on the bill. If this resolution is passed by the voters and the federal government decides to pass a law prohibiting abortion nationally, how will S.J.R. 7 work in conjunction with the federal law?

SENATOR CANNIZZARO:

Our only control in Nevada as a Legislative Body is what statutes are in our State Constitution by a vote of the people. The democratic decision was specific in that decisions about access to abortion and reproductive care should be made by the states. The Supreme Court of the United States says these decisions are states' rights decisions. Senate Joint Resolution 7 brings a vote to the people that will go to the ballot for Nevadans. We want to put this before Nevada voters to have them affirmatively say we have this fundamental right to reproductive care.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN GORELOW:

I read an article addressing doctors in Idaho who stopped practicing medicine because of fear of being charged with abortion when dealing with their pregnant patients. Many pregnancies have complications. I knew a woman who was pregnant with triplets and gave birth at 24 weeks. Over the next seven weeks, all three babies passed away. It is unfortunate and sad, but if the babies had been delivered later in the pregnancy, the mother would have died. We need to provide our doctors protection and ensure they can deliver the best health care to their patients during pregnancy.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO:

The crux of S.J.R. 7 is that these types of decisions should be made between the patient and the provider without interference from politicians.

ASSEMBLYMAN DELONG:

A recurring theme I have heard throughout the responses is that it would be for the courts to decide. We are going to be legislating through the courts, which is something as a Body we do not want.

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CHAIR OHRENSCHALL:

The courts have decided. If a legal challenge is based on some interplay of statutory law, we have *Nevada Revised Statutes* and State and federal constitutional law.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO:

The reason you have heard so much about the courts is because this is not a statute. Freedom of speech does not exist in a statute. It is a fundamental right we are seeking to enact. When hearing the courts will decide, it is because this is not a piece of legislation that prescribes or prohibits actions. It is the assertion and creation of a particular right. This is a creation of a right to the extent that legislation exists outside of S.J.R. 7 and someone wants to challenge that potential legislation, which always happens. The courts will decide because it is the system of review we live under.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN DICKMAN:

Referring to Section 25, subsection 6, paragraph (c) states, " 'Least restrictive, means' means in a manner that restricts or infringes upon the autonomous decision-making of an individual to the slightest degree possible while furthering a compelling state interest." Is that a legal term?

CHAIR OHRENSCHALL:

I can reach out to our Legal counsel.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO:

I will attempt to explain. Least restrictive is a common term and test that courts use in a variety of situations when it involves fundamental rights. Courts are familiar with least restrictive, and the definition puts in its guiding principle that clearly says it is not going to infringe or restrict upon that decision-making. We are keeping decisions between patients and their doctors to the slightest degree possible while furthering a compelling State interest that those are our legal terms. Slightest degree possible is what least restrictive means.

CHAIR OHRENSCHALL:

We are now going to support for S.J.R. 7. Many people in support and opposition have travelled from Las Vegas and may be unable to testify due to time constraints. I ask all those in support to stand and then all those in opposition to stand to be recognized.

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DONNA WEST:

I am here with my written testimony ([Exhibit E](#)) in support of S.J.R. 7.

LAURA CAMPBELL:

My letter ([Exhibit F](#)) urges your support of S.J.R. 7 for all Nevadans.

OLIVIA ROJAS:

I am a college student and grew up in the Las Vegas Valley. I have come here to testify in support of S.J.R. 7. Decisions regarding access to reproductive care matter more now than ever since *Roe v. Wade* was overturned in the Supreme Court. As other states enact abortion bans, passing S.J.R. 7 is necessary to protect our freedom to choose. If politics gets in the way of vital health care, such as access to abortion, birth control, prenatal care and more, Nevadans will not be able to meet their healthcare needs. We must protect what we have now.

ADRIENNE MANSANARES (President and CEO, Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains):

We have two health centers in Las Vegas. Every year, 7,000 of your constituents come to our health centers for a variety of reasons. All 7,000 of them are met with the most compassionate, nonjudgmental care. Our providers treat every patient with the respect, honor and healing he or she deserves. I am proud to come from and be in this State to speak about constitutionally protecting reproductive rights for future generations. Regardless of what happens now or the future on a national level, there are health centers here that will remain open providing compassionate care. Please support this important piece of legislation.

STACY CROSS (President and CEO, Planned Parenthood Mar Monte):

We operate 34 health centers across California. In northern Nevada, we have a facility in Reno. We provide a variety of services and reproductive health care, including abortion and miscarriage management. We are afraid of what could happen across the Country if this State does not take the steps to protect abortion. This resolution will protect my providers. Planned Parenthood is in the process of building a healthcare center in West Wendover. We are hoping it remains an option to provide full, primary reproductive services in rural Nevada.

KATHERINE SCHOPP:

I am a nurse practitioner who provides reproductive health care to your constituents in northern Nevada. I am here in strong support of S.J.R. 7 as access to reproductive health care is stripped away from patients across this Nation. I care for patients from across the Country travelling hundreds of miles. My patients and your constituents depend on us to ensure access to safe reproductive health care. The reproductive health care I deliver allows my patients to determine when and if they become parents or choose to grow their family. This is worth protecting. I sit here today as a nurse practitioner and a mother with my daughter sitting behind me. I urge your support.

ALYSSA GURULE:

I am a college student in Las Vegas and am testifying in support of S.J.R. 7. *Roe v. Wade* was overturned last year, putting every state's reproductive freedom at risk. This resolution will ensure that Nevada's rights are protected. I am a young woman of color who took birth control pills at a young age for personal health reasons. I recognize now more than ever the importance to advocate for my rights and the rights of others who are underrepresented. This amendment protects our access to lifesaving procedures and medications. Elected officials and judges should not make these health decisions. Nevada is a State that believes in the right to choose, and we should continue to ensure it remains this way.

ALAN MORALES:

I am a student at University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), here to testify in favor of S.J.R. 7. It is a necessary step to protect Nevada's values, including reproductive freedom, and to ensure that access to abortion will be in this constitutional amendment. It will protect access to reproductive freedom for all. Affirming this constitutional amendment will protect the most vulnerable in society, especially those who are low income and of color. Since *Roe v. Wade* was overturned last summer, I have been helping my friends access critical reproductive health care. We need a concrete, legal reassurance that our State government will constitutionally protect the right to bodily autonomy and reproductive freedom. Other states enforce cruel bans on reproductive freedom. Nevada can be a champion of progress and protect one of the most important decisions a person can make.

MELIA RIVERS-JOHNSON:

I am a first-year student at UNLV. As a Black and Asian-American woman, my community faces risks of increased maternity mortality. Rates decrease in fertility care with an increase in education. This is something I must fight for so my community can heal. I am testifying in support of S.J.R. 7 because of the amount of fear I have as a minority woman living in America.

ALEJANDRA MUNETON-CARRERA (Make the Road Nevada):

I strongly support S.J.R. 7. This constitutional amendment would protect reproductive rights in Nevada and is crucial for women like me who suffer from endometriosis, a chronic and debilitating disease that affects 11 percent of women in America. For nine years I have relied on birth control to manage my symptoms and maintain a normal life. Without this medication, I would be subjected to excruciating pain, extreme fatigue, cystic growth on my ovaries and possible infertility. The proposed amendment would ensure that women have access to the health care needed regardless of medical conditions or personal circumstances. The issue of women's health care goes far beyond access to abortion. Antiabortion legislation threatens our ability to receive the necessary medical care we need, as miscarriages and abortions often require the same treatments.

VANESSA DUNN (Nevada Public Health Association):

We are in support of S.J.R. 7.

CECILIA COLLING:

I am in support of this resolution. On a personal note, I am proud to be one of the people who worked on the codification of *Roe v. Wade* in Nevada. Luckily, we can rely on that right for women in Nevada now, but medicine has changed, life has changed. It is time for us to go back and clean it up to fix the circumstances of the times.

TESS OPFERMAN (Nevada Women's Lobby):

Time and time again, Nevadans have been clear that we wholly support our right to access abortion. We passed ballot Question No. 7 in 1990 which enshrined *Roe v. Wade* into State law and protected our right to abortion up to 24 weeks of pregnancy. In 2022, we passed the Nevada State Equal Rights Amendment, further clarifying equality under the law and protecting bodily autonomy. In the Eighty-second Session, for the third session in a row, Nevada

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has a majority in female Legislators committed to developing and passing policies that will protect the right to decide when and how we have a family. At a time when the U.S. Supreme Court and states across the Nation are restricting abortion access and dictating our reproductive decisions, Nevada must rally to protect this right. By passing S.J.R. 7, my decision to take birth control, what type of birth control to use, when to have children and how many children should be my decision to make.

SHANZEH ASLAM (Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada):
We urge your support of S.J.R. 7 with our written testimony ([Exhibit G](#)).

MACY HAVERDA (Wild West Access Fund of Nevada):
The Fund addresses its support of S.J.R. 7 in testimony ([Exhibit H](#)) as the first of many battles we are prepared to fight to protect a person's inherent right to make one's own choice regarding basic healthcare autonomy.

JAKKI DURON (Wild West Access Fund of Nevada):
We provide financial and logistical support to people seeking abortion care in our State, whether they are Nevadans or people travelling into our State. We lend our support to S.J.R. 7 because we know firsthand the harm that restrictions on abortion cause people seeking this health care. Half of our weekly callers are travelling out of state to Nevada for their abortion appointments since *Roe v. Wade* was overturned. Our travelers are everyday people who want access to basic health care which is best for them, their situations and their families. For this to happen, those people must leave their own states, take leave without pay from their jobs, find childcare and travel to Nevada. Our travelers come to Nevada regardless of the risks that await them in their home state. We need protections for everyone and anyone who seeks an abortion.

SASHA OSORIO:
As a mom of three teenage daughters, access to reproductive health care is extremely important. From the ages of 15 until 20 I was on three different forms of birth control and ended up with three daughters. I was diagnosed with twin-to-twin transfusion syndrome with my last pregnancy. If *Roe v. Wade* was overturned at that time, I would not be standing here today. My daughters would be without a mother. I have made sure that my daughters are established with Planned Parenthood and know the reproductive healthcare options for them. My 16-year-old daughter had to wait six months for birth control due to

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the influx of out-of-state patients. As a survivor of incest and rape, I cannot imagine giving birth to a child in those circumstances. Lives will be lost to unsafe, illegal abortions. Please vote yes on S.J.R. 7.

YAZMINE DOMINGUEZ:

I am here in full support of S.J.R. 7. I am a middle school student at Pine Middle School in Reno. As a teenager, I would like to see my future as a young woman who can access reproductive health care, instead of making a risky decision because I do not have access to safe health care.

EMILY PERSAUD-ZAMORA (Silver State Voices):

We are here in strong support of S.J.R. 7. Democracy works best because we trust and respect voters to make decisions on issues they care about at the ballot box. Each person has the right to have a say in his or her own future which includes the right to determine one's own reproductive health care.

JORDYN CHAMIZO:

You have my unwavering support on S.J.R. 7. I started on birth control at the age of 13, but not for pregnancy prevention. I had abnormally heavy and painful periods. At aged 18, my parents switched insurance companies, and I had to go to a different doctor for my prescription. After a month without birth control, I was told I do not need it if I am not sexually active. I convinced the doctor birth control helped with my heavy flow. It is forgotten that birth control is used for reasons other than preventing pregnancy and reproductive health care encompasses more than just abortion. There are many reasons a person chooses a specific path. I am 23 years old now, and my reasons for accessing birth control have evolved. My right to access this care should always remain.

JESSICA MUNGER (Silver State Equality):

Our organization is a Statewide LGBTQ+ civil rights organization. We wholeheartedly support S.J.R. 7.

MARY JEAN ATRAN:

I am calling in strong support of S.J.R. 7. Reproductive freedom is about protecting the right to an abortion, as well as protecting all aspects of a person's rights to determine his or her reproductive future. This amendment will do just that.

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CODY HOSKINS:

I urge your support of S.J.R. 7. Reproductive rights and freedoms should be enshrined in the Constitution. I echo the statements of the other supporters.

LOLA SHANAHAN:

I am 14 years old, and I live in Las Vegas. I am concerned about others making choices when it comes to my reproductive rights. I am asking you to ensure that I can continue to make my own choices in our State and Nevada remains a safe place for others to come to who are seeking safe and legal abortions by supporting S.J.R. 7. In a survey conducted by the Pew Research Center, 62 percent of adults said abortion should be legal. Many girls and women who may have been raped or are facing medical emergencies are having to travel to our State. According to the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, there has been a 200 percent increase in patients traveling from Texas for abortions in 2022 as compared to the year before. Patients from Arizona, Idaho and Utah are also coming to Nevada to secure a safe, legal abortion. Abortion is still legal, but it needs to be protected.

ERICA ROTH (Washoe County Public Defender's Office):

We are in support of this resolution. I echo the sentiments of everyone who has come before me. The emotion surrounding this issue is exactly why it is so important that S.J.R. 7 passes, such as when people are yelling murderer or other derogatory terms toward people in these hearings. These rights are still protected. We need to make sure they continue to be.

SARAH ROJAS (Planned Parenthood Rocky Mountains):

I am here in support of S.J.R. 7. Our State-level protections for reproductive health care are being tested as states across the Country continue to enact antiabortion legislation since the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. This has forced people to leave their home states to come to Nevada for essential health care. We need to enshrine people's reproductive freedoms. This constitutional protection is ensuring all patients seeking health care in Nevada are protected from government overreach, and patients and their providers are guaranteed privacy for these reasons.

VICTORIA RUIZ-MARIN:

I am here to ask you to support S.J.R. 7. I am an immigrant and have barriers to accessing reproductive health care. This amendment will ensure reproductive

health care is enshrined in our Constitution. We cannot allow our personal feelings to get in the way of what people want and need.

BEVERLY SCHREIBER:

This amendment is about protecting the right to privacy when it concerns a person's reproductive future. As a woman of childbearing age, I am the only person who should be making decisions about my reproductive health care. For many reasons, including risk to my physical health, I decided not to have children. Last September, I had a tubal ligation to ensure I am never forced to bear a child. Women's rights are under attack in this Country, and I wanted to have my surgery while the choice was mine to make. I urge your support of S.J.R. 7.

CARLOS CALDERON (Nevada Advocates for Planned Parenthood Affiliate):

I am testifying in support of S.J.R. 7. Since *Roe v. Wade* was overturned last year, millions of people across the Country have been stripped of their right to bodily autonomy, including abortion. It is important that we maintain our backing for this legislative proposal. This amendment gives individuals the power to determine the most appropriate reproductive health care for themselves.

HAILEY LINDSLEY (Planned Parenthood Mar Monte):

I am in strong support of S.J.R. 7. In this Country, rights to access lifesaving reproductive care and freedom have been ripped away because of stigma and prejudice against abortion and reproductive care. This ban impacts people of color and lower-income communities. Essential reproductive care of all kinds is limited due to deep structural inequalities in our healthcare system. Reproductive health care saves lives.

BILL SIMS:

This amendment would help add more protection for abortion care in Nevada and the expansion of health care in a post *Roe v. Wade* world. As a disabled person, I have never been told by lawmakers what health care I can receive. Every person should be able to receive an abortion for health care. I sincerely hope S.J.R. 7 is passed.

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CLAIRE HALL:

Before I was born, Nevada was a state where abortion rights were recognized and protected through a vote of the people. Today, we find ourselves in a position where we need additional protections for our rights to reproductive care. When this constitutional amendment reaches the ballot, I will feel empowered to be a part of history-making for our State. Nevada has long been a champion of individual liberties and personal freedoms, and we must continue this legacy by ensuring that protections for abortion and reproductive health care are a permanent fixture in Nevada law. I urge you to support S.J.R. 7.

MATHILDA GUERRERO (Battle Born Progress):

Nevadans overwhelmingly support access to abortion and reproductive freedom. This Body should continue to stand tall in preserving access to all reproductive rights. The Silver State does not need politicians or antichoice extremists, making decisions about individual's medical needs or personal decisions. Please vote yes on S.J.R. 7.

BRIANA ESCAMILLA (Nevada Advocates for Planned Parenthood Affiliate):

I am proud to support S.J.R. 7. Access to sexual and reproductive health care in all forms, including abortion care is at the center of true equity. The ability to determine if, when and how to start a family and to do it safely is a basic human right. Unfortunately, this is a right that continues to be stripped away in other states across the Nation following the *Dobbs* decision last summer. Currently, millions of Americans live in states where they cannot access the reproductive health care they need. Over the past year, we have seen how easy it is for shifts in political power to result in a devastating loss of rights and care for everyday people. We cannot let that happen in Nevada. We need to ensure that the right to reproductive health care is protected in our State Constitution. Nevadans overwhelmingly support reproductive freedom, and our Constitution should reflect that value.

AJ HUTH (The LGBTQ Center of Southern Nevada):

I support S.J.R. 7. I am here because I have a six-year-old granddaughter and want her to have the right to choose if she wants to have a family.

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CASSIE CHARLES:

I am in strong support of this resolution. I grew up knowing that my mother would not survive another pregnancy due to a heart condition. It brought me great comfort as a child knowing she had access to safe and legal abortion.

DAELA GIBSON:

I strongly urge you to support S.J.R. 7 to allow Nevada voters to make this decision for Nevada.

LUCY SCHOPP:

I am 15 years old and attend the Academy of Arts, Careers and Technology in Reno. I am here today advocating for those students at my school who cannot be here. I strongly hope you pass S.J.R. 7.

ERIKA CASTRO:

I urge your support of S.J.R. 7 because as a queer, undocumented woman, oftentimes, we do not have the rights we need. When we do try to access some of our rights, many times we are rejected because of our identities. I urge your support of this bill to ensure that regardless of our identities, immigration status or the color of our skin, we all have access to the reproductive health care we need.

YOLANDA KNAAK (Nevada Federation of Republican Women):

Please vote no on S.J.R. 7 as in my statement ([Exhibit I](#)).

EMILY MIMNAUGH (Pacific Justice Institute – Center for Public Policy):

We urge you to amend S.J.R. 7 or reject it outright per our written testimony ([Exhibit J](#)).

MELISSA CLEMENT (Nevada Right to Life):

Our letter ([Exhibit K](#)) is in opposition to S.J.R. 7.

JANINE HANSEN (Nevada Families for Freedom):

Vote no on S.J.R. 7 in line with my testimony ([Exhibit L](#)).

LYNN CHAPMAN (Independent American Party):

The *Washington Examiner* reported in 2018 about the termination of a contract for freshly aborted baby parts from Planned Parenthood partners, Advanced

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Bioscience Resources. Since the article was written, the Department of Health and Human Services announced a review of fetal tissue procurement and experimentation which must be exacting and will terminate all other agreements with businesses in the abortion industry. I question how much of this is still going on. We must vote no on S.J.R. 7.

DON NELSON (Nevada Right to Life):
I oppose S.J.R. 7 in my testimony ([Exhibit M](#)).

SUSAN HOFFECKER:

I am against S.J.R. 7. I was pregnant at the age of 17, unmarried and living at my parent's house. I was pressured from my parents and my boyfriend to abort the baby, but I could not kill the life inside of me. I said I would give the baby up for adoption so they would quit badgering me to take the life of my child. My son, 53 years old now, is a successful businessman. Abortion is still legal in Nevada and does not need to change in our Constitution. It is not about reproductive rights in Nevada. It is about taking innocent life. I have no problem with birth control and health care for women. I thank God I chose life for my son.

JOY TRUSHENSKI:

Please vote no on S.J.R. 7. Abortions at nine months are heart-wrenching to me. Martin Luther King, Jr., said "a great nation is a compassionate nation." Only uncivilized people kill the most innocent, vulnerable and helpless because it is inconvenient. This amendment prohibits any real help for a baby who survives the brutality of abortion. Support life choices instead of death.

LORI JOHNSON:

I am testifying against this bill. I was 18 years old when I was pregnant and was about to have an abortion, but God prevented that from happening. I believe a child is alive from conception. My baby is beautiful, and I thank the Lord Jesus.

VIRGINIA STARRETT:

This bill is unnecessary, poorly crafted and loaded with legal trip wires. After six months of pregnancy, the fetus is most likely viable; however, the mother can rid herself of the unborn child. Why anyone would champion brutally killing

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innocent babies under the guise of reproductive care is unfathomable. Please have a conscience and vote no.

CASEY RODGERS:

Genocide is genocide, right? Murder is murder, right? Killing babies is killing babies, right? You do not want politicians involved, but you as a politician brought this bill to a Democratic-dominated Legislative Body to have this bill enacted. You voted to mandate vaccines and forced mask-wearing. You do not care about civil liberties.

RICHARD NAGEL:

I am opposed to this bill because it gives legislative and activist judges a blank check. This bill is a double-edged sword; whether they are a right-winged or left-winged activist judge, this bill could come back and cut either side. These things need to be defined empirically, so there is no wiggle room. Please vote no on S.J.R. 7.

MICHELLE AUSTIN:

I am opposed to this bill. Abortion is murdering babies and future generations. Our U.S. Constitution and Declaration of Independence is our foundation. Without it, we are not America. We should hold on to those documents which state "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness." This means babies, not born yet who also have those God-given rights. Those rights did not come from man because our Founding Fathers knew they would be taken from us like our elected officials have been doing for decades. God is about life and love. Satan is about death and destruction. The Constitution comes down to do no harm and do not trespass. That means do not trespass on property or our bodies. The woman carrying a future heir is trespassing on that baby's body, a separate body from hers, and she has no constitutional right to trespass on it. More babies have been murdered in the name of abortion than all soldiers killed in our wars. Babies cannot speak, but they have a God-given right to be born.

C. TRACY MUSCARI:

I am a practicing physician in Carson City. I am against abortion being a fundamental right because it is killing another human being. Fundamental rights should be about our own rights, not affecting another person. Slavery was a fundamental right, which was wrong. One role of our government is to protect the people of Nevada and not to favor one class of people over another. Women

who have had abortions have lifelong mental health problems, infertility and worse. We all must make decisions about reproductive care, but abortion is murder. This is unethical for physicians. Protect the weak and the innocent over the abortionist and human traffickers. Killing another human being can never be a true right.

THERESA DEGRAFFENREID:

My testimony ([Exhibit N](#)) speaks in opposition to S.J.R. 7.

SUSAN PROFFITT (Nevada Republican Club):

I am not against abortion in certain circumstances. The *Dobbs* decision stated there is no constitutional right to abortion. Putting abortion rights into the State Constitution is a political ploy. It is unnecessary and exhibits poor judgement by our Legislature. We already have reproductive rights in Nevada and can have an abortion until 24 weeks of pregnancy. The language proposed in S.J.R. 7 is problematic and will likely create a whole host of litigations. Please vote no.

RAY CORDOVA:

I am a minister in Las Vegas. When I was 18 years old, I wanted my girlfriend to get an abortion because I had a scholarship to go to college. I am glad I did not kill my son because he became a great blessing to me. I had a conscience at that time because I was raised a Catholic, and we are told that murder is wrong. I praise God for that conscience. I wanted to kill my little baby boy because it was inconvenient, and it would keep me from going to school. That was my goal. Now I know abortion is not reproductive health care. It is it reproductive, selfish health care. We kill these little babies because it is not convenient. It is inconvenient to take care of them, and we do it out of selfishness. I pray that you reject S.J.R. 7. God's word says before I formed you in the belly, I knew you before you came forth out of the womb. I sanctified you. I ordained you.

CRISTIANE MERSCH (Nevada Right to Life):

As an immigrant and a proud Nevadan, I am a little sad about this resolution because it hurts our fundamental rights. The first fundamental right and basic right is life. Without life you cannot have any other rights, such as liberty or freedom of speech. Our Constitution already guarantees those rights. At the age of 17, I was a pregnant teenager in high school, and I chose life. My daughter is my inspiration today. I wish you could listen to women like me with real stories who chose life. There is so much said about reproductive rights and

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reproductive care. No one is willing to talk about prenatal care or the adoption system here in Nevada. Please vote no on S.J.R. 7.

NICHOLAS HENDRIX:

Every child who resides in the womb of their mother needs protection. You say you are wanting to establish rights for women, but there is no woman nor man who ought to have the right to kill one's children, however small or helpless they may be. That right is not given to you by any founders of this Nation. You have overstepped your bounds. You have failed to care for the most helpless and the oppressed of your constituents. We call upon you to not only reject this bill but to draft a bill which will protect the life of every child from the moment of conception. I do not believe in abortion under any circumstances. Any child who is aborted is murdered. I want you to recognize the fact that paying any man or woman as an assassin to tear a child limb from limb and to throw them away is murder and should to be treated as such.

GRACE TRUJILLO:

I am a believer of Yeshaya. I agree with those who oppose abortion. It is not reproductive health care because you are stopping reproduction by ending the life of a child. Abortion is not health care because pregnancy is not a disease. Abortion ends life. We are here today, able to exercise humanity, but we do not know the hour of our demise. Once in your life, your mother loved you enough to decide life. You are here today able to speak your truth. I ask that you give the same rights to the unborn as you were issued, a privilege and a chance to live on this earth. I have a powerful God who loves each of you and says children belong to him. He loves them, even the unborn.

LORENA CARDENAS:

I oppose this bill. By making abortion a fundamental right, it will prevent Nevada from requiring parental notification if a girl is seeking an abortion. Abortion is wrong. The later in pregnancy abortions are performed, the crueller they become to the unborn who can feel pain. Nevadans are moral and decent people who are horrified at the thought of a baby—with an ability to smile, recognize its mother's voice, suck its thumb and dream—being inhumanely ripped apart in cold blood. Real mothers protect their children from the moment they are conceived. The question for those pushing for late term abortions: what is wrong with you?

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MANUEL LUCAS:

I am a husband and a father to five small children. I teach special education in Clark County School District and am also a pastor. I oppose this malicious attempt to enshrine reproductive freedoms into our State Constitution. I am here to plead for the lives of those who have no voice inside the womb whether they are Black, Hispanic, Asian or White and all babies who will have their skulls crushed, limbs ripped apart and thrown into a trash bag labeled medical waste.

CLINT HATFIELD:

I represent many Christian fathers in Nevada who are taking a stand for the sanctity of life inside the womb. I am opposed to the abortionist murder bill. Oppose the satanic attack on human life. Life inside the womb is not just a clump of cells, rather human beings with heartbeats and emotions with a soul. Every human life is a miracle and a gift from God. Nearly 57 million babies have been violently destroyed and denied the right to life.

YESENIA GONZALES:

I am against this slaughterhouse bill. Some of you are parents, and you are alive because someone made the choice to give birth to you. Someone loved you and raised you. Calling S.J.R. 7 a reproductive right and allowing abortion to be treated as a contraceptive method is wrong. An unborn child has rights. In Las Vegas, the Women's Resource Center helps mothers navigate options. At seven weeks, I heard my son's heartbeat and by the third trimester was told to consider abortion by my doctor because my child had a hole in his heart. I made the choice to give birth. My son is 18 years old now and was born without birth defects. He was healed by the grace of God.

CYRUS HOJJATY:

There are reasonable cases for abortion and some good arguments. I do not see how putting this into the State Constitution makes sense.

CASSIDY POCOCK:

My testimony ([Exhibit O](#)) opposes S.J.R. 7.

CINDY MARTINEZ:

The elements of this resolution are an emotional matter in which women and men, past and present, painfully navigate the choices and consequences of family planning, reproductive health care and abortion. I understand many of the

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comments already stated on both sides of this argument. *Roe v. Wade* was overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court, and I object to amending our State Constitution to include abortion as a fundamental right. Babies have constitutional rights requiring protection. This is a perfect example of the chasm between campaigning and governing. I encourage Legislators to draft legislation that passes constitutional scrutiny and the expectations of Nevada citizens on both sides of this issue. Please vote no on S.J.R. 7.

AURORA TANGARO:

I live in West Wendover. I am in opposition to S.J.R. 7. Planned Parenthood decided it wanted to come into our border town of 4,500 people when abortion was further restricted in Utah. It wanted to retain those 3,000-plus abortions performed there annually. We have a need for better primary care here and are being preyed on by desperation to get it. When it became clear to us, Planned Parenthood refused to commit to providing any of the primary care services, we asked our council to deny it the abortion industry. The proposed amendment will further deregulate abortions when more regulations should be placed. My small community does not want to be turned into an abortion destination. We want a right to decide what kinds of businesses will be allowed to promote our city.

LESLIE QUINN:

I am opposed to S.J.R. 7. Nevadans have voted and have in place an abortion law allowing women the right to have an abortion up to 24 weeks, the age of viability for a fetus outside the womb. This bill further promotes the degradation of humanity and viability, creating dangerous legislation that promotes children as an inconvenient truth under the guise of reproductive freedom.

DENISE ASHURST:

I am a Black-American woman born in 1956. Growing up, I listened to my family's stories about the way life used to be for Black Americans. My mom said it was taboo to even speak about abortion. There was a time when Black Americans had no choice to live or die at any age. In her Cajun accent she would say we keep our children, and we raise our own. I served this Country for 20 years, and I find myself wondering why when life is not sacred anymore, much is given, and much is required. As Black Americans, we have given so much. Please oppose S.J.R. 7 in the name of sanity.

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PJ BELANGER:

I am 60 years old, and I am the grandmother to five grandchildren. My daughters started having babies when they were 17 and 18 years old. We have our children, and we raised our children. My life matters as a survivor of an abortion attempt. Please oppose S.J.R. 7.

TONY FREEMAN:

I oppose this bill. Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood, wanted to sterilize Blacks, Hispanics and Asians. This bill stands for murder. I stand in agreement with all of those who oppose S.J.R. 7.

ANDREA AGUILAR:

What is the definition of reproductive freedom? This will be interpreted by the Nevada courts to encompass several medical procedures. Where does it begin and end? This bill also declares reproductive freedom a fundamental right. Is it a fundamental right to dismember a human in the womb? It is pure evil. Why are criminals being pardoned and babies being murdered all in the name of reproductive freedom? You are all about medical freedom when it comes to killing babies in the womb. God have mercy on our souls because what is coming down on this Nation is nothing that you can fathom.

BOYD DRUBE (Real Choices Women's Center):

We believe whether you are pro-life or pro-choice, you can get behind what we do. We give women and men evidence-based information they need to know about the pregnancy. Our services are free. Most importantly, we do not profit from anyone's pregnancy decisions, whether he or she faces parenting, adoption or abortion. We give compassionate care but do not provide or refer for abortion procedures. A pregnancy termination can encourage even deeper physical, spiritual and emotional trauma brought on by the abortion procedures. You are given a chance to be born, to live, to make an impact. How are these babies who will be killed in the womb any different than you are? I reject S.J.R. 7.

ALIDA BENSON (Nevada Republican Party):

I am speaking in opposition of S.J.R. 7. It was already voted into law in 1990. Abortion is legal for any reason until 24 weeks of pregnancy, past the point of viability for the fetus to live outside the womb. The only people who can change this are the voters of Nevada through exercise at the polls and direct

democracy. The sponsors of this resolution are attempting to circumvent the process of collecting signatures, putting this on the ballot and persuading voters on the merits of the proposal of unlimited third-trimester abortions by introducing this legislation.

JESSICA ANSEL:

I strongly oppose S.J.R. 7. I am a 41-year-old Christian woman who was groomed to abort my first child, and I chose life, despite the pressure surrounding me. I have been blessed with four children and now four grandchildren. It is possible that none of these wonderful people would exist if I had gone through with killing my first child. It is a strong possibility that once a woman has had one abortion, she will have several more abortions. My children's lives matter as do the children who are being slaughtered daily in Nevada.

HAROLD ERBACHER:

I am neutral on this bill. This is a sensitive subject, and I am not going to take it personally. An article published in the *National Library of Medicine* titled "Fetal Behavioural Responses to Maternal Voice and Touch" shows fetuses as young as 21 weeks respond to the touch of their mother.

RALPH HOILAND:

I am neutral on S.J.R. 7. As an 81-year-old man who raised six children and tons of grandchildren and great grandchildren, why are we aborting 2 million children a year? My daughter used abortion as her chosen form of birth control. I would have accepted the children, but she chose not to have them. I do not care. I am not religious. If this resolution is approved, we will be back in court in four or five years for any number of reasons.

RACHEL PUAINA:

I am trying to stay as neutral as possible and hope that both sides can come to an agreement. It is heated on both sides. I pray you are considerate to those women who think abortion is the answer. Let us consider what they are going through and pray with them.

JUAN CARLOS:

I am not familiar with the term pregnant individuals. Are we fighting for women's reproductive rights? I just have a simple question. What is a woman?

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KATIE RYAN:

I urge you to support S.J.R. 7.

ROI SANDERS-HILLMON:

I am calling to express my support for S.J.R. 7.

JULIE BARGER:

I am a registered voter and am here to ask for your support on S.J.R. 7. Women and their health providers must have total protection under the law, including, but not limited to, abortion, medication and privacy. Nevada has a shortage of healthcare providers, especially doctors. This amendment will create a welcome business environment for much needed healthcare providers coming to our State. I urge you to pass this resolution because we need to stop the overreach of government to Nevada citizens.

MARIA-TERESA LIEBERMANN-PARRAGA:

I am in strong support of S.J.R. 7. I cannot believe the amount of disinformation and extremism voiced in opposition. This is exactly why we need the resolution. People in opposition were bringing up religion and the Bible. I went to Catholic school, and the Bible does not address abortion in one way or another. This has been going on for as long as people have been around. We need to protect women and ensure people have access to this essential form of health care.

PAULA LUNA:

I echo the sentiments of the caller before me. I hope you support S.J.R. 7.

SHELBY SWARTZ:

We need this resolution to pass. Nevada is a proud pro-choice State, and people know that reproductive freedom is about protecting the right to abortion and all aspects of a person's right to determine their own reproductive future. I urge you to support S.J.R. 7.

AMBER FALGOUT:

I am writing this testimony ([Exhibit P](#)) to show my support of S.J.R. 7.

PHIL MAN:

I am calling in support of S.J.R. 7. I share the comments made by others. As a man, my reproductive healthcare decisions are not restricted. I can freely obtain

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a vasectomy, get a prescription to treat erectile dysfunction online and purchase condoms over the counter. That same freedom should apply to everyone, and I challenge other men to also support reproductive freedom. This is a resolution that will go to a vote of the people, which means if you have misgivings about what is contained within the resolution, you will have an opportunity to vote against it on the ballot.

LISA LYNN CHAPMAN:

I support S.J.R. 7 in my testimony ([Exhibit Q](#)).

KEVIN HILLMON:

I am calling in support of S.J.R. 7. Any person who is not allowed to make decisions about his or her body is relegated to a second-class citizen. There is no reason why people should not choose their own type of health care.

JIM DEGRAFFENREID (Nevada Republican Party):

The Nevada Republican Party strongly opposes S.J.R. 7 in its letter ([Exhibit R](#)).

BARB MATHERS:

I oppose S.J.R. 7. I am a mother of two and love children. I support every unborn child and am completely opposed to abortion. Planned Parenthood uses abortion as a method of birth control. I will continue to fight for the unborn child.

RENEE REZENTES:

This resolution sounds like a desperate attempt to secure and protect future funding for the new Planned Parenthood facility in West Wendover, allowing Nevada to promote abortion tourism. Lynching has been outlawed a long time ago, and we have been lynching babies in the womb for 50 years. We need to protect those babies. Vote no on S.J.R. 7.

DAVID SEAT:

I am here representing God. This is a spiritual battle between good and evil. I will be waging this battle protected by the armor of God, wearing the belt of truth and striking with the sword of the spirit. The unborn child belongs to God, not the human vessel carrying the baby. The scripture is clear, do not harm his most precious creation, children. If you vote for this evil legislation, you will have no defense. Consider God's words. Please vote no on S.J.R. 7.

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BOB RUSSO:

I oppose S.J.R. 7. Science has shown that a fetus has consciousness from early in the second trimester. A conscious, feeling, living being in the prebirth stages of life feels pain while being aborted. Our Country was founded on the premise that we all have inherent rights bestowed upon us by our creator. Former Professor of Philosophy, Celia Wolf-Devine argued that our national practice of abortion contradicts the good of inclusion by condemning an entire category of human beings to death. Our society is contradictory to claim to welcome and protect the vulnerable yet show callous indifference to the fate of human beings before the moment of birth.

CHARLOTTE STEWARD:

Abortions performed to preserve the life and health of the mother are rare. Unless it is medically necessary, abortion should not be allowed. A baby's life needs to be protected. Vote no on S.J.R. 7.

COLBY DYSON:

I oppose S.J.R. 7 in my testimony ([Exhibit S](#)).

TIM STOFFEL:

I am here speaking against S.J.R. 7. Today, we are not addressing lifesaving medical procedures necessary for the health of the mother. We are not talking about contraception designed to prevent conception. We are speaking about elective infanticide or abortion on demand. It is barbaric to kill our young for convenience. Abortion is murder. Mothers do have medical rights but should not have the right to terminate life.

BEPSY STRASBURG:

I oppose S.J.R. 7. This resolution is not about fundamental rights. I am here for the rights of the unborn child. Abortion is not about one person. There are two lives intertwined. Nevada law is already available to protect all parties involved in reproduction. This Legislative Body is here for Nevada, not for the needs of other states surrounding Nevada. This resolution does not protect the rights of the unborn in Nevada after surviving a brutal abortion.

JULIE BURKE:

I oppose S.J.R. 7. I agree with everything of those in opposition. I am here to support the unborn children who do not have a voice. I was pressured by

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healthcare professionals to obtain an abortion and, thankfully, I did not. My two children are beautiful people. I have taught my daughter to think of abortion as an option but to be responsible and to think of the unborn child who deserves love. Sadly, this resolution is about making abortion easier.

MEREDYTH KEAST:

I am a board-certified advanced practice pharmacist. Developing stem cells from cardiac tissue does not require fetal tissue; adult tissue can be used which is superior in stem cell research. Please oppose S.J.R. 7.

JAMES M. BENTHIN:

I am against S.J.R. 7. Women, moms and girls have been represented here. I am here to represent the unborn. All life is sacred. Human embryos and fetuses are living things. The moment of conception is when life begins.

KAREN STEVENS:

I am here to oppose S.J.R. 7. We do not need an amendment to our Constitution that supports murdering another individual, whether unborn or not. It is the saddest day to be here talking about this disregard of the life of a baby as if it is nothing more than pulling a tooth. I hope the pregnant women in this room can think about what it would be like not to keep that baby.

KEN HANSEN:

I am a pastor at Silver Hills Church, retired Air Force master sergeant and father of three children. God is the author of our life. He is the one to whom every lawmaker and citizen will give an account for the actions they take regarding this legislation. He is a God who extends mercy to those who repent of their sins, but he does not leave the guilty unpunished when it comes to abortion. There are two authorities on this matter, the word of God and science. We were told earlier that the word of God was providing misinformation and the Bible does not speak to abortion. The Bible takes the life of the unborn seriously. As for science, it is well known at conception that a new DNA strand has begun and is unique from the mother and father. There is no other logical time at which life would begin or at which a soul would be implanted into the body. Please do not support S.J.R. 7.

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BELLA HANSEN:

I am a 15-year-old Christian. Almost all pregnancy care except abortion is legally safe. Pro-lifers are not putting miscarriage care at risk. I am against the practice of abortion. A propagated lie is that we are against removing a miscarried baby. Another falsehood is the ambiguity surrounding the term birth control. Postsex pills are meant to prevent a pregnancy in the early stages. Pro-lifers are not attacking presex pills. Pregnancy is safer now than ever before. We have the science now that allows us to remove a baby, perform a vital surgery on the woman and replace the baby into the womb. It is extremely rare that women are at physical risk due to pregnancy. Abortion is wrong and has no place in our State and our future. Please vote no on S.J.R. 7.

KATIE SELLS:

I oppose S.J.R. 7. Reproductive health care does not include murder. Abortion is murder. Abortion is not successful unless you terminate the life of an unborn baby. Planned Parenthood was founded by Margaret Sanger who was a racist eugenicist.

DANA ENGLEKIRK:

My husband Doug and I ran for State office in 2020 in Nevada and were both elected. My husband was elected to the Douglas County School Board, and I was elected to the Skyland General Improvement District in District 36 at Lake Tahoe. We say vehemently no to S.J.R. 7.

BILL HORNE:

I oppose this resolution. I am against a change to the Nevada Constitution because you wish to make these rights permanent and to put legislation before the voters who will not understand it and approve it in ignorance.

MARIANN HUMPHREY:

I agree and echo the sentiments of those in opposition. We take a lot of thought and compassion when we have pets and go to great lengths to care for them. We would never think of aborting our pregnant animals. We have no problem with a baby being born at eight or nine months and deciding to abort that baby. That is murder. I am against S.J.R. 7.

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KELLY QUINN:

I am opposed to S.J.R. 7 because of the constitutional aspect it has. I do not understand what part of prenatal care, childbirth, postpartum care or infertility needs the protection of our State's Constitution. Every item listed in Section 25 is already protected in statute.

CELES PARKS:

I am a registered nurse, and I am opposed to S.J.R. 7. This resolution promotes the unjust killing of innocent life. By your vote, hundreds of thousands of lives are at stake. The babies will either be brutally slaughtered or saved by your vote. We must establish true justice in our land.

KARL REINARZ:

Why not put forth one piece of legislation that protects families, parental rights and the preborn? The unborn baby will feel pain as it is gruesomely aborted. The heartbeat will speed up as the womb is invaded with a foreign object. Late-term abortions are even far more horrendous. I strongly oppose S.J.R. 7.

CONCETTA TEDESCO (Catholic Daughters of the Americas):

I vehemently oppose S.J.R. 7. We do not need abortion enshrined in the Constitution. If a woman's life is in danger, you never need an abortion. Deliver the baby instead of killing the baby. Some may not survive, but they all have a chance.

LINDA DUNAWAY:

It is important for us to understand this is an eternal decision by everybody. God is not God because we believe in him. I strongly oppose S.J.R. 7.

JACKSON STALLINGS:

I oppose S.J.R. 7. Abortion is wrong. It is murder by taking the life of an unborn human being made in the image of God. It should not be enshrined, and it should not be in permanent status.

ANDY THOMPSON:

I am pastor at First Baptist Church in Henderson. From Day one, the woman's body declares her child alive and worthy to protect and nourish. Abortion is not only an abominable denial of science but a barbaric display of selfishness and

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hatred. This proposed shedding of innocent blood is intolerable and an offense against God and man in the highest degree. I oppose S.J.R. 7.

ALEXANDRIA SLACK:

This resolution is protection for abortionists. There are so many situations where courts may have to get involved to resolve the situation. I oppose S.J.R. 7.

SENATOR CANNIZZARO:

Senate Joint Resolution 7 does not require healthcare providers to provide an abortion. There is no constitutional protection for medical malpractice. Section 25, paragraph 4 indicates that a physician must be licensed by the State and be acting consistent with the applicable scope of practice and within that standard of care. Every time a decision about reproductive health care is made, those decisions could be medically different to the extent that we want medical science and healthcare providers to be guiding someone in making whatever decision is made.

This is a constitutional amendment which is why it is different than other things this Body does because we primarily change Nevada statute. This referendum will go to the voters. Nevadans will go to the ballot box and choose to either support or not support this amendment.

CHAIR OHRENSCHALL:

I will close the hearing on S.J.R. 7. I am in receipt of five documents ([Exhibit T](#)) in support of S.J.R. 7. I am also in receipt of 16 documents ([Exhibit U](#)) in opposition of S.J.R. 7. The last item on our agenda is public comment.

Ms. RODGERS:

I watched most of you today. When those in support of S.J.R. 7 were speaking, your attention was well received; however, when opposition was speaking many of you were ignoring us. I did not feel as if we were heard. Trying to squash the opposition is not going to happen.

Ms. PROFFITT:

I have been to many hearings and the one thing that seems to be repetitive with this Committee is a tax hike. We have a \$2 billion surplus. I testified for a bill today which was Governor Joe Lombardo's bill for safety in our schools, and it did not have a huge tax increase attached to it. Please bring more bills that do

not raise taxes, as our economy is presently so bad for people who are trying to pay their bills.

MS. TEDESCO:

If a pregnant couple is given an adverse diagnosis such as Down's syndrome, trisomy or the like, the couple will be directed to another couple with a child of similar special needs. They can support one another. This is through Prenatal Partners for Life.

MS. CARDENAS:

I consider myself a California refugee here in Nevada. I came here five years ago in hopes this State was better than California, and it was. It pains me to see Nevada follow in California's footsteps and become more progressive which is detrimental to our children in education and so-called reproductive health care.

MS. J. HANSEN:

We appreciate the fairness and patience with which this hearing was held. It was handled exceptionally well, and I understand why public testimony was held to one minute with so many people wanting to speak.

UNIDENTIFIED TESTIFIER:

There are so many bad drivers in Las Vegas from other countries. It would be great to have a bill that would require anyone applying for a driver's license to be required to take driver's education classes. Another thing, when votes are being counted after an election, all votes should be counted immediately in order to get our election results.

MR. CARLOS:

I am asking each one of you to recognize the Lord in our legislation. I am here to be a peacemaker. I want us to make peace with God because we are talking about passing legislation in Las Vegas known as Sin City. Now we want to add to that darkness that will lead to the wrath of God.

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CHAIR OHRENSCHALL:
Seeing no more public comment we are adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Barbara Young,
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Senator James Ohrenschall, Chair

DATE: _____

Assemblywoman Michelle Gorelow, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBIT SUMMARY				
Bill	Exhibit Letter	Introduced on Minute Report Page No.	Witness / Entity	Description
		1		Agenda
A	B	1		Attendance Roster
S.J.R. 7	C	6	Senator Nicole J. Cannizzaro	Conceptual Amendment to Constitution Amendment
S.J.R. 7	D	7	Caroline Mello Roberson / NARAL Pro Choice America	Support Document
S.J.R. 7	E	13	Donna West	Testimony in Support
S.J.R. 7	F	13	Laura Campbell	Letter in Support
S.J.R. 7	G	16	Shanzeh Aslam / Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada	Testimony in Support
S.J.R. 7	H	16	Macy Haverda / Wild West Access Fund of Nevada	Testimony in Support
S.J.R. 7	I	21	Yolanda Knaak / Nevada Federation of Republican Women	Testimony in Opposition
S.J.R. 7	J	21	Emily C. Mimnaugh / Pacific Justice Institute	Testimony in Opposition
S.J.R. 7	K	21	Melissa Clement / Nevada Right to Life	Letter in Opposition

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S.J.R. 7	L	21	Janine Hansen / Nevada Families for Freedom	Testimony in Opposition
S.J.R. 7	M	22	Don Nelson / Right to Life	Testimony in Opposition
S.J.R. 7	N	24	Theresa DeGraffenreid	Testimony in Opposition
S.J.R. 7	O	26	Cassidy Pocock	Testimony in Opposition
S.J.R. 7	P	30	Amber Falgout	Testimony in Support
S.J.R. 7	Q	31	Lisa Lynn Chapman	Testimony in Support
S.J.R. 7	R	31	Jim DeGraffenreid / Nevada Republican Party	Letter in Opposition
S.J.R. 7	S	32	Colby Dyson	Testimony in Opposition
S.J.R. 7	T	36	Senator James Ohrenschall	5 Support Documents
S.J.R. 7	U	36	Senator James Ohrenschall	16 Opposition Documents