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WHY CATHOLICS SHOULD

VOTE NO TO THE ERA

1 AGE RESTRICTIONS MAKE A LOT OF SENSE.

Laws “discriminate” based on age all the time. For the protection of vulnerable youth, we set minimum ages to drive, smoke, drink, or consent to sexual activity. To prevent elder abuse, we provide special privileges and protections to those over 65. This so-called new constitutional “protection” would make it much easier for activists to overturn these common-sense safeguards. Age restrictions that relate to “sexual freedom” or “the right to die” are those that would be most likely to be challenged. Some countries already permit children as young as 12 to consent to assisted suicide or euthanasia, which could soon be legalized in New York. We want to ensure that appropriate protections remain in place for vulnerable age groups.

2 CHILDREN SHOULDN'T MAKE LIFE-ALTERING MEDICAL DECISIONS WITHOUT PARENTAL CONSENT.

Confusion about gender has become an epidemic among young people. But gender reassignment therapies and surgeries have serious life-long consequences, and their safety and benefit are increasingly questioned, even by secular researchers. “Gender-affirming care” is based in ideologies that do not recognize the true nature of human sexuality and often these ‘treatments’ fail to adequately address underlying mental health struggles. This amendment would permit troubled children to seek these dangerous procedures without parental consent or even knowledge, excluding from the conversation those who know them best and desire their true good.

3 NEW YORK ALREADY HAS TOO MUCH ABORTION.

New York currently has one of the most extreme abortion laws in the world, permitting abortions up to birth, allowing non-physicians to perform abortions, and excluding parents from the decision-making process. By making “reproductive healthcare” a constitutional right, it would be impossible to pass even the most limited restrictions to protect women and children, and would further threaten the conscience rights of health professionals and institutions that refuse to take unborn life by abortion.

4 EROSION OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM PROTECTIONS.

Religious liberty, our first freedom as Americans, is a fundamental right that knows no boundaries. This means that individuals and churches, religious organizations and charitable institutions must be “immune from coercion on the part of individuals or of social groups and of any human power, in such ways that no one is to be forced to act in a manner contrary to his own beliefs, whether privately or publicly, whether alone or in association with others, within due limits.” (*Dignitas Humanae*, no. 2) Passage of this Equal Rights Amendment would call into question the religious freedom of individuals and organizations who should not be asked to compromise their faith - a faith which has and still motivates participation in healthcare, education, civil rights and the alleviation of poverty. All Americans would suffer.

Learn more: <https://t.ly/WJwcQ>