

Overview: SJR 42 is presented by its title to be focused on our individual right to privacy. This is clearly a deceptive move. This is about abortion without limits.

The right to an abortion is already enshrined in state law, with no serious efforts to remove it. If this resolution passes, and becomes part of the state constitution, all laws currently regulating abortion, which are very few, would immediately be open to a legal challenge. This would include the state law requiring counseling of minors prior to an abortion and the limit on abortions past viability.

Do the people of Connecticut really want abortion available all nine months of a woman's pregnancy?

Below are some points for opposing this legislation.

The people of this country and state are still divided on this issue. Abortion is not ready socially or politically to be enshrined as part of the highest legal document of our state. Trying to dictate morality through force of law very rarely works, we saw this with the dictate of Roe v Wade, and this is exactly what SJR 42 attempts to do.

This resolution fails to state its intent, which is to legalize abortion without limits in the State of Connecticut. Instead, the authors of this resolution use the term "right of individual privacy."

The reality is that people's views on abortion rights vary greatly. Even many supporters of a women's right to choose believe abortion should be limited in its scope. This resolution would make abortion legal at any time during the gestational cycle from the first week to the ninth month.

SJR 42 would override existing state law that limits abortion up until viability. It would require the state to ignore any future findings, that science may give us, concerning fetal viability and pain.

It threatens the freedom of religious institutions that choose not to recognize abortion as a right or pay for abortion services. Using the term "right of individual privacy" is an effort to mislead the public and avoid these difficult discussions.

This is only further proof that the issue of abortion should remain part of the legislative process and not placed in our Constitution.

The best solution to balance these conflicting interests is through open debate and discussion. The General Assembly is the best forum for this discussion to occur. Placing it as a constitutional right will limit discussions and open debate in the future.

Source: Connecticut Catholic Public Affairs Conference ctcatholic.org