FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Cleveland Plain Dealer’s Refusal to Endorse Issue 1

The decision by cleveland.com/The Plain Dealer not to render an endorsement on Issue 1 is appalling, cowardly, and a slap in the face to all who value privacy in healthcare and the right to plan their own families. Given Republican lawmakers promise to strip away reproductive rights in Ohio, it’s even more disheartening to see the state’s largest newspaper invoke neutrality on such an urgent issue.

What will cleveland.com say if Issue 1 is defeated and another 10-year-old girl is raped? The immense psychological toll that girl will bear for the remainder of her life is unimaginable. To have a child as a result will be a brutal reminder of that horrific moment. What will they say when a woman finds out seven weeks after her last cycle that she has an ectopic pregnancy? And she must choose between death or an illegal and undoubtedly unsafe abortion. What happens when Clarence Thomas and the Supreme Court rule that birth control and gay marriage are not protected by the Constitution? Considering Thomas promoted this very reality in his Dobbs decision it’s not an extremists’ dream, it’s a real possibility. Viewed in this light, cleveland.com’s decision is nothing short of institutional cowardice.

Countless media organizations like cleveland.com have fallen into the trap of “both sidesism,” twisting themselves into knots to find something good about the idea of politicians inserting themselves between patients and their physicians.

Issue 1 is about the fundamental human right for women to control their own bodies. A right that all Americans should possess. It is also about the right to believe our healthcare provider will rely on medical science and not the moral dictates of extremists. This vote on November 7th is critical to sustaining all the freedoms we hold dear. Taking away reproductive freedom today can lead to restrictions of other rights in the future, including freedom of the press.

We ask cleveland.com to reconsider their unwillingness to endorse and take a stand for what is fundamentally right. Vote Yes on Issue 1.

David Brock       Juanita Brent
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