

Christian Action Ministry

Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action

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Calendar

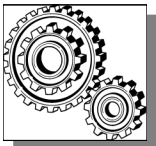
Primary Elections
Tuesday, August 9th

Election Day

November 8th

Inside

“Ask the writers of this proposed language to tell you where the limits are. They cannot. There are reasons this broad wording was chosen.”



In the Works

“That’s Not Very Christian of You”

Are you interested in becoming involved? CAM is looking for interested and active people to act as liaisons to their church, helping to keep the Christian community informed. Contact us at camnetVT@gmail.com.

Pandora’s Language Box

By
Kay Trudell

Do you remember reading Greek or Roman mythology when you were in high school? Do you remember the story of Pandora? In Greek mythology, the creation of Pandora, a beautiful woman, was commanded by Zeus as an act of revenge. As the story goes, he sent her to earth with a skillfully crafted box (some early versions say it was a lovely jar) that contained all the evils of the world locked inside. She did not know this. Zeus commanded her never to open the box. Of course, that stimulated her curiosity more each day. Finally, the day came when she could no longer resist opening the box. When she did, all the evils locked inside flew out into the world to trouble human beings from that day forward. We get our expression “to open a Pandora’s box” from this fable. This saying has several meanings. It generally means that some things are better left alone. Or, that some things are deceitfully hidden beneath an innocuous or normal exterior that, when revealed, will cause havoc.

Vermont residents are facing a Pandora’s box this coming November in 2022. We will be asked by the Vermont Legislature to participate in a statewide vote on language that is a veritable Pandora’s box. The language is often referred to as Proposal 5. If passed, it will amend the Vermont Constitution to insert the following language as Article 22, a new Amendment. The proposed language reads as follows:

Article 22. [Personal reproductive liberty.]

That an individual’s right to personal reproductive autonomy is central to the liberty and dignity to determine one’s own life course and shall not be denied or infringed unless justified by a compelling State interest achieved by the least restrictive means.

This language has been presented to the citizens of Vermont by the Legislature as protecting women’s reproductive rights. It will allow abortion up to the moment of birth. That is only part of the picture.

There have been several lopsided votes in the Legislature where the supermajority Democrats and Progressives (with the help of a few Republicans) have guaranteed its passage. It also sailed through the various affirmative votes with little opposition from Vermont’s Republican governor. Members of all political parties are involved in this legislation.

The amendment of the Vermont Constitution is a lengthy process, involving several legislative votes over a period of successive years. All votes held so far have allowed this proposed language to advance. The problem is that as bad as the language looks on the surface for people who hold a pro-life worldview, abortion is only one of many evils that will fly out if this Pandora’s language box is fully opened. This wording has been sold to the legislators and citizens of Vermont as simply preserving women’s abortion “rights” which the Supreme Court established in *Roe v. Wade* in 1973. It will indeed enshrine those

rights in the Vermont Constitution, but there is so much more danger hidden beneath the surface that has not been openly discussed.

The Vermont Right to Life Committee has analyzed the proposed language. VRLC has warned us that the wording will likely result in the following consequences for Vermonters after Court rulings and lawsuits filed by people or organizations with a particular agenda. (1) Vermont taxpayers' money will fund most all abortions; (2) Vermonters will pay for most sterilizations and sterilization reversals; (3) Pay for the expenses associated with infertility and surrogacy; (4) Fund pro-abortion organizations like Planned Parenthood, who, along with the ACLU, the Vermont Human Rights Commission (who called abortion a human right) and many staffers in the Vermont Attorney General's Office, helped to craft the language in Proposal 5/Amendment 22.

But this language is much worse than allowing abortion up to the moment of birth, although it will allow that. Look at it. Do you actually **see** the word "abortion" anywhere? No, you do not. The wording states that a person has the right to personal reproductive auton-

omy and that it is a concept central to determining one's life course and one's liberty and dignity. It states these cannot be denied or infringed unless the state has a compelling interest. Do you think a state where the Legislature is as leftist as Vermont will deny anything in this area? It will have a compelling interest in broadening and strengthening the concepts contained in such language. As people and organizations who seek to support the abortion agenda file lawsuits, they will use the courts to so do, and there will be no area that is closed to them. This language allows liberal courts to range everywhere. It will not be limited to abortion.

Chapter I of the Vermont Constitution addresses the rights of the inhabitants of Vermont. There has not been a new Article added to Chapter I since 1786. This language is proposed to be added to Section 22. No other state has this type of language in its Constitution, to the best of my knowledge. However, you can bet other states are waiting in the wings to see what happens in Vermont. We will, once again, be the liberal Petri dish for cultural experimentation. Study the language carefully. It is so broadly written that you could drive an 18-wheel truck

through it.

Some examples: There are no age limits. The word "female" or "woman" is not used, so the **right** to reproduce will apply to any possible gender or gender combination. How will this impact medical personnel who are forced to participate? Biological (birth) sex is not mentioned or defined. That means it is wide open for any gender or combination of genders to claim absolute rights under this language. Groups which will certainly be empowered if this wording is cemented into our state's Constitution, will be all areas of the gay and transgender movements. The structure and definition of marriage will be affected. How many people and combinations of sexes (some will say genders) will be allowed to consummate a single marriage and have multiple sex partners within it to reproduce? All legal. Where are the boundaries? How many legal parents will those children have? Who will be financially responsible for them? How will divorces work? Child support? How will adultery or fornication be legally defined? What biological gender combinations will there now be demanding reproductive rights? How will this reproduction be achieved? Must the state and taxpayers pay for

everything a person demands so they can reproduce? Who decides the extent of such obligation? Will "abortion tourism" increase as people travel here from out-of-state to take advantage of this broad "right"? Why not? Where is the language limited to Vermont residents? Does this also include minors? Who pays??

Under this language, children also have their own reproductive autonomy from the moment of birth. Look carefully. There are no lower age limits. Parental rights and authority concerning their children will be shattered. Even young children will be able to make decisions (influenced by other adults or peers) that their own parents will be helpless to stop or change. It will tear traditional nuclear families apart. Do you understand how radical this proposed language is? The people who drafted it are intelligent. They know what it really means, and how our liberal judiciary is likely to interpret it. Look what has happened to the area of abortion since 1973 and sexual rights across the entire spectrum in less than 50 years. Four thousand years of Judeo-Christian morality and cultural cohesion are under attack.

Children far below the

age of consent could be pressured into marriage or sexual relationships with adults.

With a nod to utter moral relativism, the Legislature passed, and Governor Scott signed into law, legislation allowing people to change genders on their birth certificates. In the face of this wording and Proposal 5 language, what limits would there be on how many times people can switch their genders back and forth on birth certificates? Would changes be strictly limited to biological male/female birth sex? Who knows? No matter what the new law may say now, it is one of the areas that would be opened wide to lawsuits in the presence of the Constitutional language of Proposal 5. Cultural chaos is created if people can switch their genders on birth certificates without limits. If you commit a crime as a man, and transition to a woman, are you still the same person who committed that crime?

Do you think that is a stretch too far? Find the defined limits in the language. They do not exist. ANYTHING is possible. Anything can (and probably will) be attempted to be shoehorned into all sorts of rights expansions that groups with an agenda will demand. Lawsuits will assuredly be filed that ask courts to support said interpretations. In the practice of law, broadly written language that includes no definitions or limitations means that courts are free to interpret it any way they wish. This language

is DANGEROUS as written. Ask the writers of this proposed language to tell you where the limits are. They cannot. There are reasons this broad wording was chosen.

Where are the protections for religious freedom? There are none. Churches could be sued for preaching Biblical morality. Are there protections for medical personnel whose religious beliefs or consciences make them unable to participate in some of these procedures? No. What will objecting teachers be forced to teach to children? Medical personnel and teachers will not be able to legally refuse.

Written and oral freedom of speech and of the press are at risk. If the state Constitution is changed, can someone force you to shut up if you speak or write a pro-life message? A message upholding Biblical morality in the areas of abortion, a homosexual lifestyle, transitioning from one sex to the other, the impact of trans participation in sports, beauty pageants, use of restrooms, shower and locker rooms, etc.? Could you be accused of a hate crime?

Proposal 5 is a Pandora's Box of language. If opened, it will sow lawsuits which the State will have to defend with our taxpayer money. We will no longer have an objective standard of right and wrong on which we can depend. All will be fluid. We will not know what fixed standard we can trust, as le-

gal meanings will change quickly. Medicine will be affected across almost all disciplines. Vermonters will potentially be impacted in the areas of schooling, careers, military service, religious freedom, medicine, law, economics, oral and written speech, family stability, the rearing of children, etc. People will be forced to fund even more organizations or movements with which they disagree. Societal chaos and evil are crouching in the language box, waiting to be unleashed. Defend the Constitution, brave people of Vermont. We cannot join ourselves to the evils that will follow if we vote for this in November 2022. Yes, do ask yourself what would Jesus do???

Kay Trudell is a Director of the Christian Action Ministry and attends Ignite church in Williston, VT.

Although not an attorney, Kay spent 20 years in professional and associated careers working with contractual, legislative, and legal language, including writing such language and negotiating hundreds of contracts, sometimes against attorneys. As a result of this training, she has chosen to ask some penetrating questions and make personal observations about the hidden dangers of the language of Proposal 5. In Kay's opinion, this unrestricted language will mean whatever the authors of the language (including Planned Parenthood, the ACLU, and staff in the Vermont A.G.'s office) and the courts will say it really means once lawsuits are filed. No other state has this language in its Constitution. In her opinion, Vermont is being set up to be the test case for the nation. The spiritual implications for Vermont are enormous.

"The pregnant woman cannot be isolated in her privacy. ... it is reasonable and appropriate for a State to decide that ... another interest, that of health of the mother or that of potential human life, becomes significantly involved. The woman's privacy is no longer sole and any right of privacy she possesses must be measured accordingly."—US Supreme Court, Roe v. Wade, (1973)



We Are All Pandora

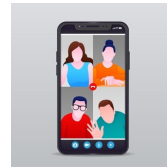
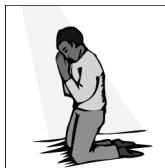
Pandora is not a hero in any version of her story. Sometimes she is portrayed as malicious; sometimes just curious. Perhaps most people who support a law have good intentions, but we are a fallen race. Things just do not turn out as expected.

Check out: <http://www.econoclass.com/unintendedconsequences.html>

From a variety of areas, they provide ten examples of serious, unintended consequences of laws or practices that seemed to be well intentioned. We might pave a road with good intentions. Don't support something just because people seem to mean well. Really consider the effects. There is a lot in this issue. Take your time.

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What Can I Do?



Faith without works is dead
James 2:17

Email: camnetvt@gmail.com
or website
<https://christianactionministry.org/>

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PO Box 1067
Williston, VT 05495

Next Meeting

Aug. 1, 7:00 pm
Roadside Chapel
Rutland, Vt.

📞 (802) 773-2602
Call or text to confirm date
and location

**Make A Difference
In Vermont!**