

Defense Of Life Amendment

An amendment to the Constitution of the State of Iowa and enacting legislation to be approved by the Iowa General Assembly.

Part I: The Defense Of Life Amendment

A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Iowa relating to the protection of innocent human life.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution of the State of Iowa is proposed:

1 Article I of the Constitution of the State of Iowa is amended by adding the following
2 new section:

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4 SEC. 1B. Protection of Innocent Human Life.

5 1. Recognition of Life. The State of Iowa affirms that innocent human life shall be
6 protected from the moment a human zygote is created until natural death.

7 2. Scope of Protection. This section shall not be construed to prohibit the
8 imposition of capital punishment for crimes lawfully adjudicated under the
9 Constitution and laws of Iowa, nor to prevent lawful defense of self or others
10 against imminent threats.

11 3. Duty of Health and Safety. The State of Iowa shall facilitate life-affirming care for
12 the unborn and children in the state and ensuring their health and safety.

13 4. Safeguard for Expectant Mothers. Life-saving care provided to an expectant
14 mother shall not be administered at the expense of the life of her unborn child or
15 children, and the State shall ensure that medical interventions are designed
16 to preserve both lives whenever reasonably possible.

17 5. Adoption Guarantee. Adoption of children shall be facilitated without imposition
18 of legal fees upon adoptive parents, ensuring that financial barriers do not prevent
19 the placement of children into loving and permanent homes.

20 6. Embryo Adoption Mechanism. The State of Iowa shall establish and administer a
21 mechanism for the adoption of embryos, ensuring that embryos created through
22 lawful medical procedures may be placed for adoption and transferred to adoptive
23 mothers under safeguards that protect the health and welfare of all parties.

24 7. Clarification of Prohibited Acts. The protections of this section apply to all forms
25 of intentional termination of innocent human life, including but not limited to
26 mechanical abortion, induced fetal demise, and selective reduction. No exceptions
27 shall be recognized on the basis of genetic defect diagnosis, sexual assault, abuse,
28 or rape.

29 8. Sense of the General Assembly. It is the sense of the General Assembly that the
30 termination of implanted human embryos has been demonstrated to cause
31 long-term psychological and reproductive health problems for expectant mothers,
32 and that the State of Iowa has a compelling interest in preventing such harms while

- 1 promoting life-affirming alternatives.
- 2 9. Legislative Authority. The General Assembly shall enact laws to give effect to this
- 3 section, consistent with constitutional principles and judicial precedent.

Part II: The Defense Of Life Amendment Enabling Act

An Act to implement Article I, Section 1B of the Constitution of Iowa.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Definitions.

2 1. "Human zygote" means a living organism of the species Homo sapiens at the
3 single-cell stage of development, created by the union of male and female
4 reproductive cells.

5 2. "Embryo adoption" means the legal transfer of rights and responsibilities for an
6 embryo created through assisted reproductive technology to adoptive parents, for
7 the purpose of implantation and gestation.

8 3. "Innocent human life" means any human being not lawfully subject to capital
9 punishment or lethal force under existing law.

10 4. "Life-affirming care" means medical, nutritional, educational, and social services
11 necessary to sustain and promote the health and safety of the unborn and children
12 until they reach eighteen years of age.

13 5. "Self-sufficiency" means the capacity of parents or guardians to provide for their
14 families through employment, education, and responsible stewardship of
15 resources.

16 6. "Mechanical abortion" means termination of pregnancy by surgical or
17 mechanical means.

18 7. "Induced fetal demise" means intentional medical or chemical intervention
19 designed to cause the death of a fetus.

20 8. "Selective reduction" means intentional termination of one or more fetuses in a
21 multiple pregnancy.

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23 Sec. 2. Duty of the State.

24 1. The department of health and human services shall establish programs to ensure
25 prenatal care, maternal support, child welfare services, adoption services, and
26 embryo adoption services.

27 2. The department of education shall coordinate with health and human services to
28 provide access to developmental and educational resources for children.

29 3. The state shall prioritize funding for programs that reduce infant mortality,
30 improve maternal health, support families in caring for children, and promote
31 parental self-sufficiency through job training, education, and family resource
32 programs.

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34 Sec. 3. Adoption Services.

35 1. Adoption of children shall be facilitated without legal fees charged to adoptive

1 parents.

2 2. The state shall provide administrative and legal support to ensure that adoption
3 proceedings are accessible, timely, and free from financial barriers.

4 3. The state shall establish a registry and process for embryo adoption,
5 administered by the department of health and human services, ensuring
6 transparency, medical safeguards, and protection of the best interests of the child
7 to be born.

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9 Sec. 4. Prohibited Acts.

10 1. No person shall intentionally terminate the life of an innocent human being from
11 the moment of zygote creation, including by mechanical abortion, induced fetal
12 demise, or selective reduction.

13 2. No exceptions shall be recognized for termination of innocent human life on the
14 basis of genetic defect diagnosis, sexual assault, abuse, or rape.

15 3. Violations shall be subject to penalties as prescribed by law, consistent with
16 constitutional safeguards.

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18 Sec. 5. Exceptions and Safeguards.

19 1. Nothing in this Act shall prohibit capital punishment lawfully imposed.

20 2. Nothing in this Act shall prohibit the use of lawful self-defense or defense of
21 others.

22 3. Nothing in this Act shall prohibit medical procedures necessary to preserve the
23 life of the mother, provided that such procedures are not carried out at the expense
24 of the life of the unborn child or children, and that reasonable efforts are made
25 to preserve both lives.

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27 Sec. 6. Legislative Findings and Sense of the General Assembly.

28 1. It is the sense of the general assembly that the termination of implanted human
29 embryos has been demonstrated to cause long-term psychological and
30 reproductive trauma for expectant mothers.

31 2. The state of Iowa has a compelling interest in preventing such harms and in
32 promoting life-affirming alternatives, including adoption and comprehensive
33 maternal support services.

Part III: Draft Ballot Language

Constitutional Amendment Question

Shall the following amendment to the Constitution of the State of Iowa be adopted?

Summary:

This amendment affirms that innocent human life shall be protected from the moment a human zygote is created until natural death. It requires the State of Iowa to ensure the health and safety of the unborn and children, prohibits termination of innocent human life including mechanical abortion, induced fetal demise, and selective reduction, and establishes fee-free adoption and a state-administered embryo adoption mechanism. The amendment clarifies that capital punishment and lawful self-defense are not prohibited.

Ballot Question:

Shall the Constitution of the State of Iowa be amended to protect innocent human life from the moment of zygote creation, require the State to ensure the health and safety of the unborn and children, prohibit termination of innocent human life including mechanical abortion, induced fetal demise, and selective reduction, guarantee fee-free adoption and embryo adoption, and affirm that capital punishment and lawful self-defense are not prohibited?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Part IV: Explanatory Statement

This proposed amendment to the Constitution of the State of Iowa:

- Recognizes and protects innocent human life beginning at the creation of a human zygote.
- Requires the State of Iowa to facilitate life-affirming care for the unborn and children by ensuring their health and safety.
- Prohibits intentional termination of innocent human life, including mechanical abortion, induced fetal demise, and selective reduction.
- Specifies that no exceptions are permitted on the basis of genetic defect diagnosis, sexual assault, abuse, or rape.
- Guarantees adoption of children without legal fees and creates a state-administered mechanism for embryo adoption.
- Affirms that life-saving care for expectant mothers must not be administered at the expense of the unborn child or children.
- Clarifies that capital punishment and lawful self-defense remain permitted under Iowa law.
- States the sense of the General Assembly that termination of implanted human embryos has been demonstrated to cause long-term psychological and reproductive health problems for expectant mothers, and that Iowa has a compelling interest in preventing such harms while promoting life-affirming alternatives.

If adopted, this amendment would require the General Assembly to enact laws implementing these protections, including programs for maternal support, child welfare, fee-free adoption, and embryo adoption.