

What's the deal with MS AMENDMENT 26?

"Should the term 'person' be defined to include every human being from the moment of fertilization, cloning or the equivalent thereof?"

When a law is passed, the intent behind its creation ceases to matter. The black and white text of the law can be prosecuted to its fullest scope, no matter the intent of the law's original creators and supporters.

**Amendment 26 will make a fertilized egg a person under the law.
The destruction of a fertilized egg will legally be murder.**

Birth Control

- **The birth control pill, the IUD, and other hormonal birth control methods can prevent a fertilized egg from implanting. These forms of birth control would be illegal** according to the language of the amendment.
- **Birth control pills treat common, dangerous conditions** such as endometriosis and Polycystic Ovary Syndrome. They also treat painful and irregular menstrual periods. Barrier methods such as condoms cannot do this.

The Personhood Initiative's own literature identifies hormonal birth control as an "abortifacient"; you can verify this on page 13 of the Personhood Initiative Booklet for Mississippi and on the website it cites:

www.personhoodinitiative.com/uploads/7/7/9/1/7791541/personhood_booklet_mississippi.pdf

www.abort73.com/abortion_facts/which_birth_control_methods_cause_abortion/

Rape

- **Survivors of rape and incest, even minors, would be denied the 'morning after pill' (a high dose of hormonal birth control)**, because it can prevent implantation of a fertilized egg.
- **The proponents of 26 have stated that rape pregnancy is a blessing.** However, there is an enormous difference between choosing to remain pregnant after rape and being forced by the government to do so.

Infertility Treatment

- **Infertility treatment through in vitro fertilization (IVF) will become unfeasible** because it requires freezing embryos, which can kill them.
- Without freezing, only one or two embryos can be used at a time. **The overwhelming majority of IVF cycles would result in failure. Most couples cannot afford to pay \$12,000-\$15,000 per cycle when the success rate would be only around 5% as opposed to the current rate of around 40%.**

The National Infertility Association identifies many more problems with IVF in the context of Amendment 26 at:

www.resolve.org/about/personhood-legislation.html

Pregnancy

- **Pregnant women with severe complications and women who miscarry could face legal difficulties and accusations** at a time of great personal tragedy.
- **The Mississippi State Medical Association (MSMA) has stated that Amendment 26 "will limit the physician's options and deter use of common lifesaving procedures," and they go on to say "the MSMA Board of Trustees cannot support Proposal 26."** Other medical organizations speaking out against this amendment include the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (Mississippi Chapter), the Mississippi Nurses Association, the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, and the Society for Assisted Reproductive Technology.