

Dear Pastor,

Did you know that right now in Montana there are absolutely no state restrictions on abortion, up to the moment of labor? Did you know that parents in Montana have NO right to know if someone takes their underage daughter to get an abortion?

This is because the pro-life laws passed by Montana's elected legislature have been overturned by the courts. The courts have done this by stretching the privacy provision of the Montana Constitution beyond all common sense. The only solution is to make it clear in Montana's Constitution that unborn babies have rights, too – including the right to life – by explicitly defining in the Montana Constitution that unborn babies are people.

Therefore, with the support of great legal minds in our own state as well as renowned national-level pro-life groups including American Life League, Personhood USA, and the Thomas More Law Center, the Montana ProLife Coalition is taking the lead in launching a prolife constitutional initiative for an amendment to the Montana Constitution that states that personhood begins at conception. We need to collect close to 50,000 signatures in order to get this on the November 2010 ballot to finally give Montanan citizens the right to vote on the most important issue of our time, the right to life.

One of the most fruitful and meaningful ways to collect signatures is in Christian churches. In most Christian churches, the sanctity of life is upheld and the need to defend helpless unborn children is recognized. The church setting is a great atmosphere and opportunity to go beyond signature gathering into education and touching hearts.

There are a variety of ways to do this. We offer 10-and 30-minute power-point presentations that can be presented by one of your church members, one of MPLC's members, or by you as pastor. Another way is for you or one of your members to give your own presentation or simply let your members know the gist of what we are doing. I'm sure there are other approaches, and they are most powerful if they end in pastoral encouragement to sign the petition. Larger churches often do this several Sundays.

It is perfectly legal to collect signatures in the foyers of churches and to encourage your congregation to sign. The only potential illegality would be if this was done in a coercive fashion. It is useful to have multiple people collecting the signatures so that one can collect while another answers questions. These volunteers can either come from your church or from MPLC, and we will provide training for signature gathering and the notarized affidavits for signature gatherers. I recommend one signature gatherer for every 10-20 people in your congregation.

Please visit our Web site or contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Annie Bukacek
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