

I had to leave the hearing early. Thank you for the opportunity to speak on Senate Joint Resolution 7. My name is Peter Barger.

I live in Sparks, Nevada. I am a citizen of the United States, and a registered voter in the state of Nevada—Assembly district 31 and Senate district 14. I have been a registered voter since I turned 18, but this is my first time speaking in front of the legislature. That is how strongly I support SJR7, and I am here today to encourage the legislature to pass SJR 7 this year.

The United States Supreme Court turned the issue of reproductive rights back to the individual states saying the Supreme Court had overreached their authority and it is really a states rights issue. While I don't necessarily agree with that direction or the motives of some of the justices, I will take the Court's decision at its face value and work toward restoring these rights at the state level. Therefore, I declare my support for legislation in the state of Nevada that will deliver at least the same rights as the Roe v. Wade-determined rights that had been in place for close to the last 50 years. Specifically, I wholly support the Nevada Senate Joint Resolution 7 (SJR7) because it will help restore at the state of Nevada level the rights that were recently deleted at the federal level.

In particular, a woman should have the right to choose whether or not to continue their pregnancy, and the health care system shouldn't be prevented from providing an abortion to a woman who chooses to end her pregnancy, as described in the resolution. This extends to the rights of health care providers in the state of Nevada being able to perform abortions without legal repercussions as described in the resolution, for support persons for those seeking an abortion to be free to actively support that decision without legal repercussions, and for pregnant women from other states to cross into Nevada to secure an abortion without the state of Nevada intervening.

Reproductive freedom for the individual is a right, and should not be interfered with for any reason—be it from the political right or the political left—be it from religious or areligious philosophical roots. Abortion as an option under that reproductive freedom should not be infringed upon by the state as so described in the SJR7 legislation. The state—whether it be at the federal or state level should stay out of this most personal decision.

I highly encourage this legislature to pass SJR7 so that it can move to the next step along the road to being included in the Nevada state constitution. Thank you.