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Vote for Moreno puts access to reproductive care in danger

June marked the second anniversary of the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision, a court ruling that overturned *Roe v. Wade* and threatened the reproductive freedoms of women across Ohio. But thanks to the relentless work of health care workers and organizers across Ohio, we passed Issue 1 last fall by an overwhelming majority. A ballot measure that enshrined reproductive rights, birth control and infertility treatment protections into our state's constitution.

Unfortunately, with Bernie Moreno running for U.S. Senate, and promising to pass a national abortion ban if he's elected, the reproductive rights we fought to protect by passing Issue 1 are still at risk. When the Supreme Court handed down the *Dobbs* decision, women in Ohio were rightfully scared, facing the risk of losing the fundamental freedoms we had worked so hard to attain.

Moreno had a different response. He celebrated the *Dobbs* decision as "a monumental victory."

Women and men across Ohio got to work to get Issue 1 on the ballot and make sure it passed, but Moreno opposed the effort relentlessly. He donated \$100,000 to Protect Women Ohio, the group spearheading the effort to defeat Issue 1.

Thankfully, on Election Day last fall, Moreno found himself on the opposite side of nearly 2.2 million Ohioans who passed Issue 1. Moreno voted against Issue 1, and in doing so he voted to ban abortion without exceptions for rape or incest and voted against protecting access to contraception, infertility treatment and miscarriage care.

Moreno still refuses to accept the will of Ohioans.

He is selfish and ignorant enough to support a national abortion ban that would overturn access to abortion – access that Ohioans overwhelmingly support. He has also opposed guaranteeing a woman's right to access contraception, including birth control pills and opposed federal protections for IVF.

His bravado and false sense of purpose and justice is a weapon he is using to eliminate the rights enshrined within our own state constitution. Rights overwhelmingly supported by the constituents of Ohio.

Moreno has said he is "100 percent pro-life with no exceptions," showing what his priorities would be if he ever makes it to Washington.

Issue 1 is about so much more than access to reproductive freedom; it is about the health and safety of women. Before Issue 1, Ohioans experienced the dangerous and frightening reality of the lack of abortion protections, even when faced with dire medical emergencies.

During this time, politicians were allowed to make health care decisions for women, inserting themselves into private, personal health care discussions that should be kept solely between a woman, her chosen loved ones and her physician. Moreno's support for restrictive bans would subject Ohio women and women across the country to a reality devoid of access to safe reproductive care.

Ohio women cannot trust Moreno because he cares more about his politics than our safety.

When it comes to protecting reproductive freedom, the stakes are just as high in 2024 as they were in 2023. We must make our voices clear once again that health care decisions are between a woman and her doctor. Politicians like Moreno have no business inserting themselves into sacred private relationships between a woman and her physician.

The fight to protect Issue 1 is not over. We must continue the fight by making sure Bernie Moreno is never elected to the U.S. Senate.

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Supporters of Issue 1 celebrate during a gathering for the issue at the Hyatt Regency Downtown in Columbus on Nov 7, 2023. The issue enshrined a constitutional right to abortion. ADAM CAIRNS/COLUMBUS DISPATCH



Your Turn Nicole King Guest columnist

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