

# No on Measure 43

## Unsafe, Unworkable, Unrealistic

### The facts about Measure 43

#### What would Measure 43 do?

Measure 43 would prohibit an older teen who is 15, 16 or 17 years old from seeking an abortion unless the doctor sends a certified letter to her parent with a minimum 48-hour notice. There is no exception for cases of rape or incest and the measure permits doctors to be sued if the parent does not receive the notification for any reason.

#### What is the law right now?

Oregon law requires minors 14 years old or younger to obtain parental consent before any medical treatment. For older teens who are 15, 16 or 17 years old, the law permits them to obtain medical treatment, including abortion, without parental notification. Today, a doctor may notify a parent without the teen's consent if the doctor believes it would be in the best interest of the teen.

#### How well do these government mandates really work?

Measure 43 creates a bureaucratic process that doesn't guarantee that a troubled teen will get the medical care and counseling she needs. This measure relies on bureaucrats from the Department of Health Services, untrained administrative law judges and even the post office. While many states have mandated notification laws on the books, a growing body of research shows that these laws just don't work. **Measure 43 is unworkable.**

#### Why is this about teen safety?

In the real world, not every teen lives with a strong, caring family. Teens from homes filled with violence and sexual abuse need medical care and counseling - not government mandates trying to force family communication. Faced with the requirement to notify a parent, vulnerable teens may make rash decisions, trusting unscrupulous people offering unsafe medical procedures or even self-induced treatments. **Measure 43 is unsafe.**

#### Will Measure 43 help reduce teen pregnancy?

No. Through education and counseling, teen pregnancy has already declined 39% over the past decade in Oregon. A recent study published in the New York Times found that state laws mandating parental notification do not reduce teen pregnancy or abortion rates and often have unintended, negative consequences for teenagers. **Measure 43 is unnecessary.**

#### Who is behind Measure 43?

Oregon Right to Life is the driving force behind Measure 43. The Oregon legislature has rejected their extreme bills, so they are resorting to the initiative process. This measure is part of a national campaign that has placed measures on the ballot in South Dakota, California and Oregon to restrict access to abortion. Measure 43 is part of a political agenda to chip away at a woman's right to choose.

#### What about the role of parents?

Everyone hopes that teens will confide in their parents when faced with an unplanned pregnancy. In fact, studies have shown that a majority of teens do consult their parents before seeking an abortion. But no law can mandate good family communication. For teens from abusive families, or victims of incest, the mandated notification letter arriving at home may endanger that teen's health. **Measure 43 is unrealistic.**

#### Won't the administrative hearing process protect teens?

No. Forcing a frightened teen to plead her case before a Department of Human Services administrative law judge isn't realistic. A teenager from a troubled home who is afraid to tell her parents isn't going to risk making her case to a complete stranger in a courtroom. These "judges" are not actually judges and have no training or expertise with troubled teens facing an unwanted pregnancy. Vulnerable teens need a trusted counselor, a licensed doctor and safe medical care, not a legal process. **Measure 43 is risky.**

For more information  
please visit us at  
[www.NoOnIP51.net](http://www.NoOnIP51.net)