

**For Immediate Release**

**September 9, 2022**

**Contact: Susan Klimchak, 502-564-4682**

**State Rep. Nima Kulkarni leads panel on effects  
of proposed constitutional amendment on abortion**

**Louisville, KY:** State Rep. Nima Kulkarni joined with Protect Kentucky Access and the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) to host a panel discussion today with medical and legal experts about the proposed constitutional amendment on abortion that will be before Kentucky voters in November. Rep. Kulkarni moderated the panel, which featured representatives from the ACLU and Planned Parenthood, both members of the Protect Kentucky Access coalition to defeat Amendment 2, as well as the Kentucky chapter of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG).

Panel experts included Kate Miller, ACLU of Kentucky's Director of Advocacy; Tamarra Wieder, State Director, Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates; and Dr. Caitlin Thomas, Attending Physician, Obstetrics and Gynecology and District V Junior Fellow Chair of ACOG.

Meredith, a young woman whose last name is being withheld to protect her privacy, opened the panel discussion by detailing the harrowing miscarriage experience she had with a pharmacy in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision this summer to overturn Roe v. Wade. After learning she was pregnant earlier this summer, Meredith and her husband were devastated to learn from their doctor that there was no fetal heartbeat detected. A dilation and curettage procedure, also called a D&C, was immediately scheduled, and after the procedure, Meredith was prescribed misoprostol, a drug prescribed by her doctor to complete the procedure.

Meredith was notified by her pharmacy that it couldn't fill the prescription because she said its staff claimed it "didn't know it wasn't for an abortion." Knowing she needed the medication, Meredith explained that she was actively miscarrying and the drug was needed for that process. The pharmacist finally overrode the "pending" status and filled the prescription after hearing Meredith's emotional pleading.

"What I experienced was a unique kind of cruelty," Meredith said. "In mere hours, I went from being overjoyed by my pregnancy, then devastated to learn I was miscarrying, then to feeling like I was committing a crime by people who have no insight, context, or medical expertise as I sought legally prescribed medication. To have to justify my medically-licensed doctor's treatment plan and explain my painfully personal circumstances to a complete stranger added fear and distress to an already deeply traumatic situation," she added.

Protect Kentucky Access proponents say that if the ballot initiative is approved by voters, it will permanently amend Kentucky's Constitution and all but eliminate access to safe and legal abortion services.

Beth Kuhn, NCJW Louisville Section and who also serves as chairperson for the NCJW's Vote No on #2 committee, said, "As Jews, it is our responsibility to pass the torch 'l'dor v'dor' – from generation to generation. This constitutional amendment can and must be defeated, because it takes rights away not only from the current generation but from generations to come, and this theft we cannot stand idly by and allow."

This summer, following the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade and in the absence of federal abortion protections, the ACLU sued in state court, arguing the Kentucky Constitution protects the right to abortion.

"Amendment 2 is a government mandate, permanently enshrined in our Constitution," said Kate Miller, ACLU of Kentucky's Director of Advocacy. "It further ensures that no Kentuckians can terminate a pregnancy for any reason."

Dr. Jeffrey Goldberg, Legislative Advocacy Chair for Kentucky ACOG, said that the rights of people to control their own personal, private medical decisions are under attack with this proposed amendment.

"Regardless of one's personal views, access to abortion is necessary to offer comprehensive medical care," Dr. Goldberg said. "People should be able to access the health care they need without medically unnecessary barriers or restrictions, and doctors should be able to offer that care without government interference or fear of being charged with a crime."

Rep. Kulkarni urged audience members to share information about the amendment with voters across the commonwealth. "Medical decisions should be made by physicians and their patients, not the government," Rep. Kulkarni said. "On November 8th, Kentuckians will face a crucial choice between preserving our Constitution or allowing our basic rights to be restricted for good. We must make sure every Kentuckian knows the facts and consequences of this urgent and important vote."

For more information about Protect Kentucky Access go to: <https://protectkentucky.com/>