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## EAGLE FORUM

*Leading The Pro-Family Movement Since 1972*

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### **The Personhood Amendment Is a Mistake**

The “personhood” amendment is a gimmick that wastes money and harms pro-life candidates. It lost by a nearly 3-to-1 margin in Colorado in 2008, bringing down good pro-life candidates Bob Schaffer and Marilyn Musgrave. A losing ballot initiative hurts candidates on its side because, when voters vote against the initiative, they typically vote against the candidates linked to it by the liberal media.

It was not long ago that Colorado had many pro-life congressmen. With misguided strategies such as the personhood amendment, Colorado is now represented by pro-abortion politicians. Time, money and effort should be focused on defeating them in November, not on another ballot initiative that will not save a single unborn child. Missouri rejected the personhood petition drive and now the pro-life candidate for U.S. Senate, Roy Blunt, has over 50% support in the polls. Colorado could do this too ... if pro-lifers focus on electing good candidates, rather than futile, hurtful ballot initiatives.

Nearly every reputable pro-life leader has criticized the approach of the personhood amendment, which will simply give more power to pro-abortion judges. The pro-abortion courts might even find a way to twist a personhood law into requiring taxpayer-funded abortion as “health care” for “defective” unborn children. The experienced attorney Clarke Forsythe of Americans United for Life has criticized the personhood amendment. National Right to Life opposes it. The Catholic Church in Florida opposes it, and even forbade the collection of any signatures for it on church property. The experienced pro-life attorney James Bopp opposes it.

Contrary to the claim by a few personhood amendment supporters that it “has transformed the pro-life movement,” the personhood approach has been almost uniformly rejected throughout the nation. Missouri, which has passed some of the finest pro-life laws in the nation (so that there are only one or two abortion clinics still in business there) said “no” to an attempt to collect signatures for the personhood gimmick. California, which has had numerous pro-life initiatives over the years, declined to provide enough signatures to put this on the ballot there.

No one should put an initiative on a ballot without enough funding to defend it against opponents. LifeNews, the leading pro-life internet news service, reports that “Colorado pro-life advocates ... are also concerned about a new email the group released saying it is out of money and worry the amendment would only go down in defeat again because there is not enough money to support it.”

Pro-life laws are sweeping the nation in Nebraska, Oklahoma, Florida, Kansas and elsewhere, by REJECTING the failed approach of the personhood initiative and instead electing pro-life politicians to pass pro-life laws. Why aren't the promoters of the failed personhood amendment doing the same thing? It is far easier to elect pro-life politicians than it is to pass a pro-life ballot initiative. Genuine pro-life efforts in Colorado should focus on electing good pro-life candidates. The “personhood” initiative does the opposite, as it pulls down any candidate who supports it.

Some of the personhood literature has been hostile in tone about people who have worked for decades tirelessly supporting the pro-life movement. Some personhood literature attacks the good Supreme Court Justices who stood courageously for us in upholding the law against partial-birth abortion. Some personhood literature attacks Republicans, without any mention that only the Republicans stood courageously against the pro-abortion ObamaCare.

If the backers of the personhood approach are truly pro-life, then why aren't they providing more support to pro-life candidates who are passing good laws in other states? We encourage everyone to look up on the internet to see who is donating money to pro-life candidates (by themselves or through PACs), and who is not. Please listen to those who really do support pro-life candidates.

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<http://www.lifenews.com/nat5475.html> (criticism by leading pro-life attorney Clarke Forsythe)

<http://www.lifenews.com/state5039.html> (Californian pro-lifers decline to put personhood initiative on ballot)

<http://www.americanrtl.org/files/Documents/nrtlbopp20070807memo.pdf> (criticism by leading pro-life attorney James Bopp)

<http://www.politicsdaily.com/2010/05/04/roy-blunt-hits-50-percent-mark-in-missouri-senate-race/> (Pro-life Roy Blunt over 50% in polls to win Missouri U.S. Senate seat)