

By Mr. White, a petition (accompanied by proposal, Senate, No. 57) of W. Paul White for a legislative amendment to the Constitution to protect the rights of parents and their unborn children, having been called for consideration in joint session by an order adopted by the Senate on Tuesday, May 5, 1992.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-Two.

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PROPOSAL FOR A LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION  
PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF PARENTS AND THEIR UNBORN CHILDREN.

1 A majority of all the members elected to the Senate and House  
2 of Representatives, in joint session, hereby declares it to be  
3 expedient to alter the Constitution by the adoption of the  
4 following Article of Amendment, to the end that it may become  
5 a part of the Constitution [if similarly agreed to in a joint session  
6 of the next General Court and approved by the people at the state  
7 election next following]:

8 **ARTICLE OF AMENDMENT.**

9 Part the First of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of  
10 Massachusetts is hereby amended by adding the following  
11 Article: —

12 ART. XXXI. The life of each human being begins at  
13 conception. Unborn children have protectable interests in life,  
14 health and well-being. The natural parents of unborn children  
15 have protectable interests in the life, health and well-being of their  
16 unborn child or children. This Constitution and the laws of the  
17 commonwealth shall be interpreted to acknowledge, on behalf of  
18 the unborn child at every stage of development, all the rights,  
19 privileges, and immunities available to other persons, citizens, and  
20 residents of this state, subject only to the Constitution of the  
21 United States.

22 As used in this Article, the term unborn children shall include  
23 all unborn children of human beings from the moment of  
24 conception until birth at every stage of biological development.

25 Nothing in this article shall be interpreted as creating a cause  
26 of action against a woman for directly or indirectly harming her  
27 unborn child by failing to follow any particular program of  
28 prenatal care; nor shall this Article be construed so as to prohibit  
29 abortions which are medically necessary to save the life of the  
30 mother.