TALKING POINTS ABOUT PRENATAL PERSONHOOD MEASURES

20YEARS CENTER FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

- Proponents of prenatal personhood measures aim to severely limit women's access to reproductive health care, including all abortions, no matter the circumstances.
- Prenatal personhood measures are intended to completely and absolutely ban abortion, with no exceptions. Such a ban is undeniably unconstitutional.
- Prenatal personhood measures are so extreme that voters have rejected them at every opportunity. No state has ever enacted one.
- Prenatal personhood measures would threaten a wide range of reproductive health care services, including many common forms of contraception, in vitro fertilization (IVF), and medical treatment of pregnant women. Emergency contraception or hormonal contraception that may prevent the implantation of a fertilized egg (such as IUDs) could be banned.
- Prenatal personhood measures could create a legal quagmire for any doctor who needed to provide medical care to a pregnant woman if that care might endanger an ongoing pregnancy, as they could criminalize any conduct that might harm a fetus. This could create a chilling effect on doctors' willingness or ability to provide the appropriate care to their patients.
- Under an enacted prenatal personhood measure, pregnant women who suffer complications or miscarriages could be subject to criminal investigations and possibly jail time for homicide, manslaughter or reckless endangerment. In the small handful of countries that have enshrined similar prenatal personhood into law, women who have had stillbirths or miscarriages have been prosecuted.