



P.O. Box 1697
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203
(501) 663-4237
www.artl.org
artl@artl.org

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Rose Mimms, Executive Director
501-663-4237 or 501-920-2276

**Attorney General: Arkansans may ask to
remove their names from initiative petitions**

LITTLE ROCK – Arkansas Attorney General Tim Griffin issued an opinion Thursday, June 27, regarding whether Arkansans who sign an initiative petition may later “request that their name and signature be removed from circulated petitions.”

Griffin authored the opinion in response to a request by Secretary of State John Thurston after inquiries were made to the Secretary of State’s office about Arkansas law regarding the matter.

While there is currently no law in Arkansas governing the issue, Griffin wrote it may be a “common-law” right for a person to ask for their name to be removed.

“Although there is likely a common-law right for a person to remove his or her signature from a petition before the petition is filed with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of State does not have authority to withdraw someone’s signature and name after the petition is filed,” Griffin wrote.

Rose Mimms, executive director of Arkansas Right to Life which is leading an effort to keep the proposed Arkansas Abortion Amendment off the November ballot, thanked Griffin for the clarification. She said some Arkansans have unwittingly signed the petition without fully understanding the radical nature of the amendment and its far-reaching ramifications.

“The Attorney General has given some hope that those Arkansans who have been duped, misled, or otherwise been ill-informed of the consequences of signing the Arkansas Abortion Amendment could ask for their names to be stricken from the petition,” said Mimms. “I would encourage anyone who learned the truth that their signature will be used to propel a vote to allow the killing of innocent preborn babies through the first five months of pregnancy and even later in pregnancy for exceptions that include a disabled or special needs baby, rape, incest of healthy babies or if a mother’s health is affected by the pregnancy.”

Mimms added that Arkansas already makes exceptions for abortion to save a pregnant woman's life.

“Besides the deaths of innocent babies many citizens are unaware that by signing a petition their name and information becomes public and can be used and abused by anyone who obtains it, she said. “For those who seek a common-law right contact Arkansans for Limited Government to respectfully ask for your name to be removed from the Arkansas Abortion Amendment.”

Contact information for Arkansans for Limited Government is available at <https://arliberty.org>.

For more information on Arkansas Right to Life's Decline to Sign campaign visit artl.org/decline-to-sign-campaign.

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Arkansas Right to Life is the state affiliate of the National Right to Life Committee, the oldest and largest pro-life organization. For more information visit <https://artl.org/>.