

**From:** Timothy Hilgert <timjhil@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 15, 2023 1:36 AM  
**To:** CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Zoning Text Amendment #2023-00002

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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To the members of the Alexandria City Council;

I am writing as a decade-long member of the Alexandria City community to voice my **opposition** to the proposed Zoning Text Amendment #2023-00002.

The preferential treatment of abortion clinics fundamentally contradicts my values as a resident of Alexandria. Abortion clinics should not be prioritized over other establishments that satisfy the current definition of a health profession office. Unlike the services provided by primary care physicians, gastroenterologists, and ear, nose, and throat physicians, all of which conduct outpatient surgery, abortion is not a preventative or life-saving health care service. It ends lives rather than healing or saving them.

Rather than making unnecessary political amendments to the zoning code, the City should be focused on collaborating with the health care community to serve those who need primary care and preventative services and therefore contribute to the overall well-being of the City and its residents.

Furthermore, if abortion clinics are allowed to set up in areas zoned as commercial and mixed use, the city also risks the public protests in these areas that will undoubtedly follow.

I strongly urge you to reject the proposed Zoning Text Amendment #2023-00002.

Respectfully,

Timothy Hilgert

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**CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov**

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**From:** James Hanniff <jimihanniff@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 14, 2023 7:41 PM  
**To:** CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Oppose Zoning Text Amendment #2023-00002

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I oppose Zoning Text Amendment #2023-00002. Abortion is the opposite of health care. Scientifically speaking, once conception occurs, nothing is added to this new life except oxygen and nutrition - just like you and me!

Thank you.  
Jim Hanniff  
5757 Dow Ave #344  
Alexandria VA 22304

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**From:** Kaitlyn Sakry <sakryka@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 14, 2023 7:10 PM  
**To:** CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Zoning Text Amendment #2023-00002

UNSUBSCRIBED You don't often get email from sakryka@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good Evening,

I wanted to take a moment and express my opposition to the Zoning Text Amendment #2023-00002 that would allow abortion centers special status in areas zoned as commercial and mixed use and list abortion centers as health profession offices and medical care facilities. As a person who literally lives right next door to a pizza place (Marinos) I honestly can't imagine living right next door to an abortion clinic zoned in a way that would allow it to be right next door to my house. I can't imagine wanting to walk a child right past an abortion center and feel like that would be a safe or great place to raise my child and have to explain what happens there every time we walk past it. I can't imagine trying to sell a home that is right next to an abortion clinic, knowing the political or moral polarity caused by these facilities and think it would not devalue the property. Nor would I feel very safe having to commute (walk) by to go to work everyday or live right next to, above, or below it.

Right now, squirrels and birds pick up pieces of pizza, or wings and bring them into my yard. The fact that in the dumpster sits 2 ft away from my yard is fine because I know the dumpster contains fragments of oil that cooked mozzarella sticks and french fries and pizza remnants. Not knowing if there are any actual health codes being enforced for abortion clinics what happens to the bodies and human biohazard material? Would it be feet from someone's home? Feet from someone's yard? In a dumpster? Can you even imagine?

While I understand the intent is to bring easier access to healthcare for the people in my neighborhood here is a list of healthcare facilities I could actually be ok with living next to that we could certainly use more of:

- physical therapy
- nursing homes
- dialysis centers
- general practitioners
- day cares
- nutritional counselors and access to low-cost produce and other groceries
- non-abortive ob/gyn
- pulmonologist
- optometrists
- etc

All of which would give me no trouble sleeping at night, would not make me feel unsafe when walking home, would not make me wonder what is in their dumpster, and would not devalue the property surrounding it. I hope you do not allow this zoning rule to be adopted for the sake of all of us who live here. I have lived next to a business for 7 years but that one would certainly cause me to move. You would drive out the very people you are trying to serve by rezoning that type of facility.

Thanks for your time and consideration,

Kaitlyn Sakry

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## **CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov**

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**From:** Cynthia Weinbrenner <cinziaweinbrenner@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 14, 2023 7:06 PM  
**To:** CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Zoning Text Amendment 2023-00002

[You don't often get email from cinziaweinbrenner@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

I strongly urge you to reject the proposed zoning text amendment # 2023-00002. The preferential treatment of abortion clinics fundamentally contradicts my values as a resident of Alexandria. Life Matters!!!!!!

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Nancy Benton <nancybenton12@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 14, 2023 7:06 PM  
**To:** CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Oposición to abortion clinics

You don't often get email from nancybenton12@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

- **I strongly urge you to reject the proposed Zoning Text Amendment #2023-00002. The preferential treatment of abortion clinics fundamentally contradicts my values as a resident of Alexandria.**
- **Abortion clinics should not be prioritized over other establishments that satisfy the current definition of a health profession office. Unlike the services provided by primary care physicians, gastroenterologists, and ear, nose, and throat physicians, all of which conduct outpatient surgery, abortion is not a preventative or life-saving health care service. It ends lives rather than healing or saving them.**
- **Rather than making unnecessary political amendments to the zoning code, the City should be focused on collaborating with the health care community to serve those who need primary care and preventative services and therefore contribute to the overall well-being of the City and its residents.**
- **The City should be focusing its efforts on supporting mothers and children rather than spending time on unnecessary amendments to the zoning code. Oposición**

Nancy Benton

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## CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov

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**From:** Timothy Hilgert <timjhil@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 15, 2023 1:36 AM  
**To:** CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Zoning Text Amendment #2023-00002

You don't often get email from timjhil@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To the members of the Alexandria City Council;

I am writing as a decade-long member of the Alexandria City community to voice my **opposition** to the proposed Zoning Text Amendment #2023-00002.

The preferential treatment of abortion clinics fundamentally contradicts my values as a resident of Alexandria. Abortion clinics should not be prioritized over other establishments that satisfy the current definition of a health profession office. Unlike the services provided by primary care physicians, gastroenterologists, and ear, nose, and throat physicians, all of which conduct outpatient surgery, abortion is not a preventative or life-saving health care service. It ends lives rather than healing or saving them.

Rather than making unnecessary political amendments to the zoning code, the City should be focused on collaborating with the health care community to serve those who need primary care and preventative services and therefore contribute to the overall well-being of the City and its residents.

Furthermore, if abortion clinics are allowed to set up in areas zoned as commercial and mixed use, the city also risks the public protests in these areas that will undoubtedly follow.

I strongly urge you to reject the proposed Zoning Text Amendment #2023-00002.

Respectfully,

Timothy Hilgert

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**Written Testimony of Danielle Pimentel, J.D.  
Policy Counsel, Americans United for Life  
In Opposition of Zoning Text Amendment #2023-00002  
Submitted to the Alexandria City Council  
April 15, 2023**

Dear Mayor Wilson, Vice Mayor Jackson, and Council Members of the Alexandria City Council:

My Name is Danielle Pimentel, and I serve as Policy Counsel at Americans United for Life ("AUL"). Established in 1971, AUL is a national law and policy nonprofit organization with a specialization in abortion, end-of-life issues, and bioethics law. AUL publishes pro-life model legislation and policy guides on end-of-life issues,<sup>1</sup> tracks state bioethics legislation,<sup>2</sup> and regularly testifies on pro-life legislation in Congress and the states. Our vision at AUL is to strive for a world where everyone is welcomed in life and protected in law. As Policy Counsel, I specialize in life-related legislation, constitutional law, and abortion jurisprudence.

Though I am based in Washington, D.C., I was a proud Virginia resident for almost 20 years. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition to Zoning Text Amendment #2023-00002 ("Amendment").

This Council should reject the Amendment because it prioritizes abortion clinics over health care providers that offer preventative and life-saving health services, which will threaten the welfare of women and young girls. The City of Alexandria ("City") should instead focus its efforts on supporting mothers, families, and children, especially now that more women are choosing life and continuing their pregnancies.

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<sup>1</sup> *Pro-Life Model Legislation and Guides*, AMS. UNITED FOR LIFE, <https://aul.org/law-and-policy/> (last visited Mar. 13, 2023). AUL is the original drafter of many of the hundreds of pro-life bills enacted in the States in recent years. See Olga Khazan, *Planning the End of Abortion*, ATLANTIC (July 16, 2020), [www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/07/what-pro-life-activists-really-want/398297/](https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/07/what-pro-life-activists-really-want/398297/) ("State legislatures have enacted a slew of abortion restrictions in recent years. Americans United for Life wrote most of them."); see also Anne Ryman & Matt Wynn, *For Anti-Abortion Activists, Success of 'Heartbeat' Bills was 10 Years in the Making*, CTR. FOR PUB. INTEGRITY (Jun. 20, 2019), <https://publicintegrity.org/politics/state-politics/copy-paste-legislate/for-anti-abortion-activists-success-of-heartbeat-bills-was-10-years-in-the-making/> ("The USA TODAY/Arizona Republic analysis found Americans United for Life was behind the bulk of the more than 400 copycat [anti-]abortion bills introduced in 41 states.").

<sup>2</sup> *Defending Life: State Legislation Tracker*, AMS. UNITED FOR LIFE (last visited Mar. 13, 2023), <https://aul.org/law-and-policy/state-legislation-tracker/>.

# **I. Giving Abortion Clinics Unfettered Administrative Approval in Any Commercial or Mixed-Use Zone Threatens the Welfare of Women and Young Girls in Alexandria**

By allowing abortion clinics to set up business in zoning areas “by-right”, the City will be furthering the harms women experience at the hands of abortion providers. The Amendment proposes to drastically change the definitions of “health profession office” and “medical care facility” under the City’s Zoning Ordinance by striking large portions of the definitions and adding “abortion services” in both definitions. For example, under the proposed definition of “health profession office,” the Amendment strikes the following language: “The use of space by individuals licensed in the Commonwealth of Virginia to practice medicine, dentistry, psychiatry, psychology, nursing . . .” Instead, the Amendment proposes the following definition of “health profession office”: “A building or portion thereof . . . used for medical, psychiatric, surgical, or physical therapy, abortion services or other health related services primarily on an outpatient basis.” Additionally, the Amendment strikes the entire definition of “medical care facility” and defines it as buildings “with a gross floor area greater than 20,000 square feet used for medical, psychiatric, surgical, massage or physical therapy, abortion services or other health related services . . .”

By striking references in the Zoning Ordinance to offices and facilities that provide health services such as dentistry, psychiatry, psychology, and nursing, and instead inserting “abortion services,” the Amendment seeks to prioritize abortion clinics over actual health care providers. Even though the Amendment’s proposed definitions include offices and facilities that are used for “medical, psychiatric, surgical, or physical therapy,” the City would likely give preference to abortion clinics given the City’s recent adoption of Resolution #3087. Resolution #3087 states that “abortion is an essential reproductive health service” and asks the City to “bring forward for consideration Zoning Text Amendments to ensure unfettered administrative approval in any commercial or mixed-use zone.”<sup>3</sup>

Despite what Resolution #3087 purports, abortion is not healthcare. Abortion is the intentional killing of innocent pre-born human life. From the moment of conception, the preborn human being has a unique and complete genetic composition derived from both his or her mother and father. As early as 5 weeks’ gestation, the preborn human being’s heart begins beating. And at approximately 8 weeks’ gestation, the preborn human being begins to move about in the womb.

Even the United States Supreme Court has acknowledged the sanctity of life. In *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, the Court recently recognized that states have an interest in preserving prenatal life *at all stages of development*, as well as protecting maternal

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<sup>3</sup> Resolution No. 3087 (June 28, 2022), available at [https://vanow.org/docs/abortion-resolutions/Alexandria\\_City\\_Resolution\\_Number\\_3087.pdf](https://vanow.org/docs/abortion-resolutions/Alexandria_City_Resolution_Number_3087.pdf).



health and safety, and mitigating fetal pain.<sup>4</sup> Accordingly, states have robust power to enact legislation regulating abortion to further these legitimate governmental interests.<sup>5</sup>

In addition to destroying innocent human life, abortion also poses grave risks to women's health and safety. Currently, Virginia only prohibits abortions in the third trimester with broad exceptions. Notably, abortions carry a higher medical risk when done later in pregnancy. Ten percent of women suffer immediate complications from abortion, including blood clots, hemorrhages, incomplete abortions, infection, and injury to the cervix and other organs.<sup>6</sup> Further, compared to an abortion at 8 weeks' gestation, the relative risk of mortality increases for pregnant women by 38 percent for each additional week.<sup>7</sup>

Abortion also negatively impacts women's mental health. Scholarship shows that "both sides agree that (a) abortion is consistently associated with elevated rates of mental illness compared to women without a history of abortion; (b) the abortion experience directly contributes to mental health problems for at least some women."<sup>8</sup> Recent research on the impact of elective abortions on women's mental health has even indicated "increased correlation to the genesis or exacerbation of substance abuse and affective disorders including suicidal ideation."<sup>9</sup> Similarly, "[s]everal recent international studies have demonstrated that repetitive early pregnancy loss, including both miscarriage and induced abortions, is associated with increased levels of distress, depression, anxiety, and reduced quality of life scores in social and mental health categories."<sup>10</sup> Empirical evidence shows that elective abortion does not improve a woman's physical or mental health, but instead subjects her to both physical and psychological harm.

Giving abortion clinics special status in zoning areas will only further these harms to women by increasing the number of abortion clinics over actual health care providers. This Amendment will take away opportunities from health care providers that offer life-saving and preventative care to set up their businesses in the City. This preferential treatment is

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<sup>4</sup> *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Org.*, 142 S. Ct. 2228, 2284 (2022) (internal citations omitted).

<sup>5</sup> *See id.*

<sup>6</sup> *See How Safe Is An In-Clinic Abortion?*, PLANNED PARENTHOOD, <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/learn/abortion/in-clinic-abortion-procedures/how-safe-is-an-inclinic-abortion> (last visited March 20, 2023); REPORT OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA TASK FORCE TO STUDY ABORTION 48 (2005).

<sup>7</sup> Linda A. Bartlett et al., *Risk Factors for Legal Induced Abortion-Related Mortality in the United States*, 103 OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY 729, 731 (2004).

<sup>8</sup> David C. Reardon, *The Abortion and Mental Health Controversy: A Comprehensive Literature Review of Common Ground Agreements, Disagreements, Actionable Recommendations, and Research Opportunities*, 6 SAGE OPEN MED. 1, 1 (Oct. 2018).

<sup>9</sup> Kathryn R. Grauerholz et al. *Uncovering Prolonged Grief Reactions Subsequent to a Reproductive Loss: Implications for the Primary Care Provider*, 12 FRONTIERS IN PSYCH. 1, 2 (2021).

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*; see, e.g., Louis Jacob et al., *Association Between Induced Abortion, Spontaneous Abortion, and Infertility Respectively and the Risk of Psychiatric Disorders in 57,770 Women Followed in Gynecological Practices in Germany*, 251 J. AFFECTIVE DISORDERS 107, 111 (2019) (finding "[a] positive relationship between induced abortion . . . and psychiatric disorders").

especially concerning given that Virginia does not have a substantial regulatory framework in effect for monitoring abortion businesses. Leaving abortion clinics unregulated leads to numerous health and safety issues. In fact, AUL's Unsafe project revealed that abortion clinics in Virginia have had many cleanliness issues over the years, including dried blood on the exam light, indeterminable stains on surfaces patients would come in contact with, medication spatters on the walls, dirty machines, stained pillowcases in use, peeling paint, improperly secured cabinet doors, and torn surfaces.<sup>11</sup> Additionally, at one abortion clinic, a staff member was self-representing as a doctor despite not having a license to practice medicine in Virginia.<sup>12</sup> Staff at that same facility were seen rehanging a blood-splattered gown for reuse.<sup>13</sup> A doctor at Alexandria Women's Clinic was even seen performing a vaginal ultrasound without washing their hands.<sup>14</sup> Authorities have shut down abortion clinics in Virginia because of poor practices that have threatened the health and safety of women.<sup>15</sup>

Given the high mortality rate and life-threatening health complications women suffer as a result of undergoing an abortion, it is imperative that the City not allow abortion clinics to set up business "by-right." Abortion clinics pose serious risks to women's health and safety and should not be given priority over health care providers that conduct preventative or life-saving health care services. Virginia has seen a growing demand for mental health services in response to the pandemic.<sup>16</sup> Yet, under the Amendment, abortion clinics would likely be given preference over health care offices that provide psychological services given the pressure the City is under to give abortion clinics "unfettered" approval in any commercial or mixed-zoning area. In effect, this Amendment will have a disastrous impact on women because it will allow additional abortion clinics to set up in zoning areas "by-right," which will subject more women to the harms of abortion and unsafe practices.

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<sup>11</sup> See, e.g., Ams. United for Life, *Unsafe* (2d ed. 2018) (report documenting unsafe practice of abortion providers and finding 29 health and safety violations in Virginia abortion clinics between 2012 and 2019).

<sup>12</sup> *Id.*

<sup>13</sup> *Id.*

<sup>14</sup> *Id.*

<sup>15</sup> See, e.g., Alexandria Desanctis, *Virginia Puts Abortion Access Above Women's Health*, NAT'L REVIEW (Oct. 27, 2016), <https://www.nationalreview.com/corner/virginia-abortion-regulations-clinics-safety-standards-loosened/>; Jim Nolan, *NOVA Abortion Clinic Remains Suspended; Blacksburg Clinic Has Closed*, RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH (June 2, 2016), [https://richmond.com/news/local/government-politics/nova-abortion-clinic-remains-suspended-blacksburg-clinic-has-closed/article\\_d153146e31c0-5597-9deb-75876c43e64c.html](https://richmond.com/news/local/government-politics/nova-abortion-clinic-remains-suspended-blacksburg-clinic-has-closed/article_d153146e31c0-5597-9deb-75876c43e64c.html).

<sup>16</sup> Kate Masters, *A Shortage is Hindering Efforts to Improve Mental Health Care in Virginia*, VA. MERCURY (Oct. 27, 2021), <https://www.virginiamercury.com/2021/10/27/a-shortage-of-workers-is-hindering-efforts-to-improve-mental-health-care-in-virginia/>; Kate Masters, *Virginia Hospitals Saw Fewer Births and More Substance Abuse-Related Stays in 2020*, VA. MERCURY (Apr. 14, 2021), <https://www.virginiamercury.com/2021/04/14/virginia-hospitals-saw-fewer-births-and-more-substance-abuse-related-stays-in-2020/>.

## II. City Resources Should Be Put Towards Programs that Support and Empower Women and Families

The City should be focusing its efforts on supporting mothers, families, and children, rather than making amendments to the zoning code that would cause additional harm to women and young girls. Women are increasingly rejecting abortion and continuing their pregnancies. According to the most recent data from the CDC, the abortion rate is nearly half of what it was in the late 1980s after *Roe v. Wade* was decided.<sup>17</sup>

As more women choose life and continue their pregnancies, support for limits on abortion has increased both state-wide and nationally. In a recent poll, 51% of Virginians said that they support or strongly support limiting abortion at 15 weeks' gestation.<sup>18</sup> Additionally, on February 1, 2023, over 5,000 Virginians marched in Virginia's March for Life in support of protecting unborn children and in support of Governor Glenn Youngkin's push for limiting abortion at 15-weeks' gestation.<sup>19</sup> Further, since 2008, national polling data has shown a consistent and clear consensus of Americans supporting restrictions on abortion, including funding restrictions.<sup>20</sup> In a 2023 national poll, 60% of Americans said that they opposed taxpayer funding of abortion.<sup>21</sup> These polls show that Americans across the political spectrum agree that the government should be supporting women and families rather than subjecting women and young girls to the harms of abortion.

Pregnancy resource centers have responded to the rising need to assist mothers who decide to continue their pregnancies. Over the past 50 years, pregnancy resource centers have provided invaluable, free services to low-income women across the United States.<sup>22</sup> In Virginia, there are 40 pregnancy center locations throughout the Commonwealth.<sup>23</sup> In 2021 alone, these pregnancy centers served over 11,000 clients, provided over \$3,500,000 in free medical care and support to women, and had 99% positive feedback from individuals using the pregnancy center services.<sup>24</sup>

<sup>17</sup> CTRS. FOR DISEASE CONTROL & PREVENTION, 69 SURVEILLANCE SUMMARIES 1, ABORTION SURVEILLANCE-UNITED STATES (Nov. 27, 2020).

<sup>18</sup> *Mid-Term Mixed Bag: Virginias Split Not Only on Policy, But Even on What Issues Matter as November Approaches*, WASON CTR. (Oct. 12, 2022), <https://cnu.edu/wasoncenter/surveys/archive/2022-10-12.html>.

<sup>19</sup> Riley Wyant, *March for Life Draws Thousands to Richmond to Rally Against Abortion*, NBC (Feb. 1, 2023), <https://www.nbc12.com/2023/02/02/march-life-draws-thousands-richmond-rally-against-abortion/>.

<sup>20</sup> See *New 2023 Knights of Columbus-Marist Poll: Post Roe, A Majority of Americans Continue to Support Legal Limits on Abortion*, KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS (Jan. 18, 2023), <https://www.kofc.org/en/resources/communications/polls/majority-americans-still-support-abortion-limits.pdf>.

<sup>21</sup> *Id.*

<sup>22</sup> See Charlotte Lozier Institute, *Pregnancy Centers Stand the Test of Time* (2020), [https://lozierinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Pregnancy-Center-Report-2020\\_FINAL.pdf](https://lozierinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Pregnancy-Center-Report-2020_FINAL.pdf).

<sup>23</sup> *Virginia Pregnancy Center Association 2020 Community Impact Report*, VA. PREGNANCY CTR. ASS'N (2022), <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/60d201847c78ef1e9e5ff099/t/>.

<sup>24</sup> *Id.*

These pregnancy centers also provided over 9,000 women with free pregnancy testing services, over 6,400 free ultrasounds and 1,300 STI tests performed by licensed medical professionals, over 7,100 parenting and life skill classes and coaching sessions to women and their partners, and over 134,000 free essential supplies to women, including prenatal vitamins, formula, diapers, wipes, baby clothes, baby equipment, and more.<sup>25</sup> Furthermore, Virginia pregnancy centers receive no funding by the state and are solely funded by donations from their local community.<sup>26</sup>

Virginia pregnancy centers have become an incredible community resource.<sup>27</sup> In fact, a recent study in *Contraception* confirmed that pro-life pregnancy resource centers offer better and less expensive services than abortion facilities.<sup>28</sup> However, rather than recognizing the remarkable work that pregnancy centers do for underserved women and families, these centers have been wrongfully targeted and attacked. As one example, Blue Ridge Pregnancy Center, in Lynchburg, Virginia, was one of the 40 pro-life pregnancy centers that has been attacked since the leak of the *Dobbs* opinion.<sup>29</sup> Individuals had taken crowbars and shattered the glass of all windows and two doors of the pregnancy center.<sup>30</sup> The sidewalks and parts of the pregnancy center building were spray painted with messages like, “if abortion ain’t safe, you ain’t safe.”<sup>31</sup> These attacks threaten to close the doors of pregnancy resource centers, which will result in many women losing out on receiving essential, free professional care.

Given the rise of attacks on pregnancy resource centers and the fact that more women are choosing to continue their pregnancies, the City should focus its efforts on allocating resources towards programs that support and empower women and families. Women deserve better than to be subjected to the false narrative that they need abortion in order to be successful in American society. Today, this Council has the opportunity to reject this false narrative and affirm its support for women by voting in opposition to the Amendment.

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<sup>25</sup> *Id.*

<sup>26</sup> *Id.*

<sup>27</sup> *Id.*

<sup>28</sup> Kavita Vinekar et al., *Early Pregnancy Confirmation Availability at Crisis Pregnancy Centers and Abortion Facilities in the United States*, 117 *CONTRACEPTION* 30 (2023).

<sup>29</sup> Virginia Allen, *Inside A Pregnancy Center that Pro-Abortion Vandals Attached*, DAILY SIGNAL (Aug. 7, 2022), <https://www.dailysignal.com/2022/08/07/inside-a-pregnancy-center-that-pro-abortion-vandals-attached/#:~:text=Blue%20Ridge%20Pregnancy%20Center%2C%20in,Jackson%20Women's%20Health%20Organization.>

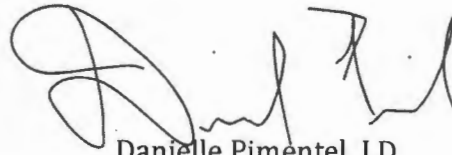
<sup>30</sup> *Id.*

<sup>31</sup> *Id.*

### III. Conclusion

The Amendment will result in more poorly regulated abortion clinics in Alexandria, which will expose additional women and young girls to the inherent harms of abortion. The residents of Alexandria deserve to have more access to health care offices and facilities that provide life-saving care rather than abortion clinics that jeopardize the health and safety of women. For these reasons, I strongly encourage this Council to protect maternal health and affirm life by voting in opposition to the Amendment.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Danielle Pimentel', is written over a horizontal line.

Danielle Pimentel, J.D.  
Policy Counsel  
AMERICANS UNITED FOR LIFE

**From:** Cs Kronz <cskronz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 15, 2023 8:11 AM  
**To:** CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Zoning Amendment #2023-00002

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Zoning Amendment #2023-00002 defies the laws of God; it distorts truth and justice. this amendment denies equal protection under the law for preborn human beings simply because they cannot be heard, or speak for themselves due their young age and small size. The fact is that the womb is exactly where they are designed to be at this age. As were you. We are not licensed to kill people based on their age or where they live.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. What you are considering here is foolish. Abortion is not healthcare. I have been in healthcare for over 40 years. The objective of healthcare is not death. It is life & dignity. Abortion is the eradication, the snuffing out, of a human life. Intentionally and brutally. This would horrify us and rightly so if we were to witness a grown person, being torn apart and snuffed out this way.

It is entirely inconsistent with the reason that anyone goes to see a health practitioner!

Is this the type of care you would expect from your doctors office? Is this what one would expect at a one-year-old's annual physical – to be slaughtered by the pediatrician?

It is obvious that abortion is not healthcare. Abortion is murder, therefore, it defies the laws of the Living God of the Bible.

I strongly protest the passage of this amendment, as fallacious and wicked and dangerous to society, by promoting the disregard for human life, the promotion of murder, and for redefining the nature of healthcare. Not to mention, shaking the fist in defiance of the God, who made us.

All support of abortion is a rebellion against God's law. You will give an account for this because you are magistrates. You have been given your position by God's appointment and you have a great deal to be accountable for under His rule and ordinances. Should He allow this to pass, He will only be ripening this city for judgment.

Urgently & respectfully,

Cynthia Kronz  
Springfield, VA

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John 16:33 ~ "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

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**CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov**

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**From:** kcketchmark@aol.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 15, 2023 7:56 AM  
**To:** CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Zoning Text Amendment #2023-00002

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**Council Members,**

I am writing to register my opposition to Zoning Text Amendment #2023-00002, and as representatives of the Alexandria community, urge your opposition to its approval.

The intent of the amendment runs in opposition to my faith and personal principles, and by extension, my values as a citizen and resident of Alexandria.

I would ask that you devote your energies in this matter to others which support families, women and children who prioritize the lives of their, and our, children, and in doing so may need our assistance in providing for the essential needs of their children. Knowing that such assistance is available may be a critical decision point in families and women choosing life for their children.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this very important issue for our Alexandria community and families.

**Kevin Ketchmark**

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## CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov

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**From:** Ski DC Lisa <skidclisa@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 15, 2023 7:42 AM  
**To:** CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Abortion clinic rezoning

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Are there other priorities that the City Council should be addressing than rezoning for abortion clinics? I've never heard of any woman complaining that they cannot find an abortion doctor, or birth control, or Plan B - morning after pills. The Plan B pills go on sale at CVS and Walgreens often. Birth control - pills, patch, shot, diaphragm, etc. are free at the city clinic and through most insurance companies. Condoms are plentiful and free at schools and clinics.

If you wore a mask for two years, your sex partner can wear a condom for 46 seconds.

Reject the proposed Zoning Text Amendment #2023-00002.

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## CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov

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**From:** Dana DiMattia <dcdimattia4@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 15, 2023 7:42 AM  
**To:** CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Zoning Ammendment

You don't often get email from dcdimattia4@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good Morning.

I am reaching out regarding this morning's city council meeting. I strongly urge you to reject the proposed Zoning Text Amendment #2023-00002. The preferential treatment of abortion clinics fundamentally contradicts my values as a resident of Alexandria. Abortion clinics should not be prioritized over other establishments that satisfy the current definition of a health profession office. A quick search on [abortiondocs.org](https://abortiondocs.org) indicates that one of the clinics in Alexandria, Alexandria Women's Health Clinic, demonstrated deficiencies throughout the years of 2012-2019. For example, look at this report from 2016: <https://abortiondocs.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Alexandria-Womens-Health-Clinic-11-29-2016.pdf>. Most of the clinics on [abortiondocs.org](https://abortiondocs.org) demonstrate some deficiency or recent report or news articles about abortionists' lawsuits, medical malpractice, or women being sent to the hospital after undergoing an abortion procedure. Unlike the services provided by primary care physicians, gastroenterologists, and ear, nose, and throat physicians, all of which conduct outpatient surgery, abortion is not a preventative or life-saving health care service. It ends lives rather than healing or saving them. We are commanded by God to not kill. Abortion is murder. If it wasn't murder then a woman wouldn't have to ingest medication to cause a miscarriage and an abortionist wouldn't have to suction out and dismember the fetus during a surgical abortion. We know that the ramifications of abortion for women are much more costly for them later in life despite the immediate "relief" they are sold and told to feel. According to Guttmacher, there are 32 facilities that provide abortion in VA, 44 facilities that provide abortion in MD and 8 facilities that provide abortion in DC. There are only 16 pregnancy resource centers in the state of Virginia. In our immediate area there are only 2 in Alexandria, 1 in Fairfax, 1 in Falls Church, 2 in Woodbridge and 1 in Annandale. Rather than making unnecessary political amendments to the zoning code, the City should be focused on collaborating with the health care community to serve those who need primary care and preventative services and therefore contribute to the overall well-being of the City and its residents. We should be focusing on efforts to support the mothers choice to choose life, rather than end it. Abortion is murder and we are supposed to defend the lives of the unborn, not support laws and regulations that support the destruction of their lives and the souls of mothers. It is your duty to uphold just ordinances, not unlawful ones that defy God's law.

Sincerely,  
Dana DiMattia

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**CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov**

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**From:** alba caceres <caceresc.alba@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 17, 2023 1:24 PM  
**To:** CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]zoning text Amendment #2023-00002

You don't often get email from caceresc.alba@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

- **Rather than making unnecessary political amendments to the zoning code, the City should be focused on collaborating with the health care community to serve those who need primary care and preventative services and therefore contribute to the overall well-being of the City and its residents.**

**People need affordable Health care services. People in the government make the right decision.**

--

Alba Mercedes Caceres

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## CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov

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**From:** Lauren Firich <lauren.firich@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 16, 2023 8:40 PM  
**To:** CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Opposition to Zoning Text Amendment #2023-00002

You don't often get email from lauren.firich@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

I am a City of Alexandria resident and parishioner at St. Rita Catholic Church.

I am writing to express my opposition to Zoning Text Amendment #2023-00002. This amendment gives abortion centers special status in areas zoned as commercial and mixed use (**e.g. the new apartment complexes planned immediately adjacent to St. Rita**) by explicitly listing abortion centers as health profession offices and medical care facilities.

The amendment would allow centers that provide "abortion services" to set up in these areas "by right," with no consultation of neighbors and without any consideration of potential impacts on the area and the actual medical needs of the local community. This amendment would make abortion potentially more accessible in Alexandria and especially to our Spanish speaking brothers and sisters. They deserve life, not death.

- 1) Why should we put access to abortion - a life-ending procedure - on the same level as access to actual life-saving medical care? Space allocated for medical services should be reserved for medical services.
- 2) How many abortions have been performed in Alexandria since 2018? There are no public statistics since then.
- 3) What health inspections have been performed in abortion centers since 2018? There were multiple health violations prior to that.
- 4) What exactly happens to the bodies of the babies that have been aborted? Are they sold, or thrown away in the dumpster, or flushed down the toilet?
- 5) What exactly are the regulations that are being eliminated or changed?

Please protect the most vulnerable members of our community - our children - as well as our families! Abortion does not give women an option. It makes them feel like abortion is the only option.

Please do not change the zoning regulations for abortion centers. We should prioritize services that heal, not services that destroy life. I strongly urge you to reject the proposed Zoning Text Amendment #2023-00002. The preferential treatment of abortion clinics fundamentally contradicts my values as a resident of Alexandria.

Thank you,

Lauren Firich  
4850 Eisenhower Ave. Unit 414  
Alexandria, VA 22304

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**From:** Monica Favela <mfavela8@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 15, 2023 4:25 PM  
**To:** CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Reject the proposed Zoning Text Amendment #2023-00002

You don't often get email from mfavela8@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Please protect the most vulnerable members of our community - our children - as well as our families! Abortion does not give women an option. It makes them feel like abortion is the only option.

Having an abortion puts women in much more likely scenario for depression and post-abortive suicide ideation. Instead of encouraging women to end their children's lives, we should be supporting them carrying their children to term and helping them to support them. Abortion hurts women and children and destroys families. Please consider these facts about post-abortion depression:

1. Women who have an abortion are 3x more likely that women of child-bearing age in the general population to commit suicide.
2. The increased risk percentage of women who have an abortion compared to women in the general population of having at least one mental health issue: 81%.
3. Teen girls are up to 10x more likely to attempt suicide then their counterparts who have not had an abortion.
4. Teen girls who have had an abortion are up to 4x more likely to successfully commit suicide when compared to older women who have had an abortion.
5. About 45% of women who have had an abortion report having suicidal feelings immediately following their procedure.
6. Only 1% of women of child-bearing age seek psychiatric help for mental health issues in the 9 months prior to having an abortion. After having an abortion, the percentage rises to 1.5%.
7. 1995 data suggests that the rate of deliberate self-harm is 70% higher after abortion than after childbirth.
8. The British Journal of Psychiatry found an 81% increased risk of mental trauma after abortion.
9. At least 27% of women who have an abortion will have a moment of suicidal ideation afterward.
10. A study of California Medicaid patients found that the risks of suicide increase by 154% for women after they have an abortion.
11. 2 in 3 women who have a late abortion [after 12 weeks] suffer from the clinical definition of PTSD.
12. 40% of women in one UK survey said that they wanted to keep their child, but the pressures of others to have an abortion forced their hand in the decision.
13. Women whose first pregnancies ended in abortion are 65% more likely to score in the 'high-risk' range for clinical depression than women whose first pregnancies resulted in a birth.
14. Abortion may be a risk factor for subsequent depression in women for up to 8 years after the

pregnancy event.

15. Women who have had an abortion are 34% more likely to develop an anxiety disorder.

16. 110%. That's the increased risk of alcohol abuse in women who have had an abortion.

Please do not change the zoning regulations for abortion centers. We should prioritize services that heal, not services that destroy life. I strongly urge you to reject the proposed Zoning Text Amendment #2023-00002. The preferential treatment of abortion clinics fundamentally contradicts my values as a resident of Alexandria.

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## CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov

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**From:** Kathleen Lynch <kathleenlynch@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 15, 2023 12:28 PM  
**To:** CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]We strongly oppose Zoning Amendment #202-00002

 You don't often get email from kathleenlynch@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

Please consider NOT giving priority to abortion clinics in Alexandria City. There are other solutions that do not gravely hurt a baby and his/her mother.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Kathleen Lynch, MS, AFC®  
(360) 582-6543

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**From:** Kevin Lynch <kevinlynch173@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 15, 2023 12:41 PM  
**To:** CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Zoning Amendment

You don't often get email from kevinlynch173@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

- **I strongly urge you to reject the proposed Zoning Text Amendment #2023-00002. The preferential treatment of abortion clinics fundamentally contradicts my values as a resident of Alexandria.**
- **Abortion clinics should not be prioritized over other establishments that satisfy the current definition of a health profession office. Unlike the services provided by primary care physicians, gastroenterologists, and ear, nose, and throat physicians, all of which conduct outpatient surgery, abortion is not a preventative or life-saving health care service. It ends lives rather than healing or saving them.**

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## CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov

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**From:** Sarah Greiner <58donahue@cua.edu>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 15, 2023 11:10 AM  
**To:** CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Zoning Text Amendment #2023-00002.

 You don't often get email from 58donahue@cua.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear City Council members,

I am writing to urge you not to change the zoning regulations for abortion centers. We should be looking to build and support medical centers that promote good health and healing, not services that destroy life and induce trauma. I strongly urge you to reject the proposed Zoning Text Amendment #2023-00002. The preferential treatment of abortion clinics fundamentally contradicts my values as a resident of Alexandria.

With all best wishes,

Sarah Greiner  
1709 Crestwood Dr  
Alexandria, VA 22302

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**From:** noreenholthaus@aol.com  
**Sent:** Friday, April 14, 2023 5:55 PM  
**To:** CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov  
**Cc:** Joe Holthaus; Noreen Holthaus  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]REJECT Proposed Zoning Text Amendment #2023-00002 Concerning Abortion Clinics Special Status

You don't often get email from noreenholthaus@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I understand that the Alexandria City Council will consider Zoning Text Amendment #2023-00002 at its meeting scheduled for tomorrow, April 15, and this amendment would give abortion clinics special status in areas zoned as commercial and mixed use properties by explicitly listing abortion clinics as health profession offices and medical care facilities. Also, I understand the amendment would allow clinics that provide "abortion services" to set up in these areas "by right," meaning with no consideration to potential impacts on the area and regardless of Alexandria's need for primary care physicians and other life-saving health clinics.

– I strongly urge you to reject the proposed Zoning Text Amendment #2023-00002. The preferential treatment of abortion clinics fundamentally contradicts my values as a long-time resident of Alexandria.

– Abortion clinics should not be prioritized over other establishments that satisfy the current definition of a health profession office. Unlike the services provided by primary care physicians, gastroenterologists, and ear, nose, and throat physicians, all of which conduct outpatient surgery, abortion is not a preventative or life-saving health care service. It ends lives rather than healing or saving them.

– Rather than making unnecessary political amendments to the zoning code, the City should be focused on collaborating with the health care community to serve those who need primary care and preventative services and therefore contribute to the overall well-being of the City and its residents.

– The City should be focusing its efforts on supporting mothers and children rather than spending time on unnecessary amendments to the zoning code.

Please REJECT this proposed Zoning Text Amendment #2023-00002. Please ensure all council members are provided this information.

Thank you.

Joe and Noreen Holthaus  
303 S. Fayette Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

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## CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov

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**From:** MARY QUINN <maryquinn@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 14, 2023 4:36 PM  
**To:** CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]ZoningText Amendment #2023-00002

480.142.1567  
You don't often get email from maryquinn@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Mayor Wilson and Members of the City Council:

We are writing to oppose this amendment that you will vote on tomorrow, April 15, 2023. We understand that there is the possibility that if it is passed, there is a potential that an abortion facility may be included in the plans for the new apartment building next to St. Rita Church. How insensitive that is. Has St. Rita Church been contacted??

We are lifetime residents of Alexandria. Our families grew up here. The spirit of Alexandria has always been neighbors helping neighbors. The possibility of having an abortion center in our midst is not in that spirit at all. Medical care centers are about life-not death.

We also know that the residents of Alexandria are pro family and pro life. Please consider a pregnancy center that would support women with counseling, medical assistance and mentors throughout the pregnancy. Another possibility would be to set up an adoption center.

This would truly be neighbors helping neighbors-the spirit of Alexandria.

Sincerely,

Mary Quinn  
Margaret Fisher

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## CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov

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**From:** Jo Lozovina <jolozovina@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 14, 2023 4:35 PM  
**To:** CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Zoning 2023-00002

Get Outlook for Windows You don't often get email from jolozovina@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Please do not allow abortion facility to be close to Saint Rita's Catholic Church. This US an abomination to all Christians!!

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**From:** Danny <seatti@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 14, 2023 4:22 PM  
**To:** CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Zoning Text Amendment 2023 -00002

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Alexandria City Council Members,

A little more than a year ago, our residents and those who live elsewhere witnessed [Alexandria Landmarks Bathed in Blue and Yellow As City Shows Support for Ukraine \(thezebra.org\)](#)



**Alexandria Landmarks Bathed in Blue and Yellow As City Shows Support for...**

Kevin Dauray

ALEXANDRIA, VA Over the weekend, photos of Alexandria City Hall and the George Washington Masonic National Mem...

In the above referenced article, Mayor Wilson is quoted as saying, "I imagine we will keep [City Hall lighted] that way for the foreseeable future. I certainly join with so many of our residents who are shocked and disgusted by the unprovoked, unwarranted violence that Russia has perpetrated against her neighbor," said Alexandria's mayor Justin Wilson. "There is a sense of helplessness that so many have felt. This seemed like a basic way that Alexandria could show our support for the brave citizens of Ukraine who are bravely fighting for their sovereignty and freedom right now."

With sincere appreciation for the City Council's support of the citizens of Ukraine, I join with so many of our residents and those who live worldwide, who are shocked and disgusted by the unprovoked, unwarranted violence that abortion perpetuates against the lives of unborn children. I am certain Alexandria, VA would likely draw national, and perhaps international, positive attention should its landmarks be awash in white, pink and blue lights ( [A new flag waves over the pro-life movement - Catholic Review](#)); however, I suggest the most basic and immediate way that the City Council can demonstrate that it is consistent in its support and defense of all innocents, and especially those who cannot fight for themselves, is to oppose Zoning Text Amendment 2023 - 00002.

Daniel S. Ciatti  
Alexandria, VA

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**From:** Michael Hohenstein <mvhohenstein@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 14, 2023 4:22 PM  
**To:** CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Amendment

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**Good Afternoon,**

- **I strongly urge you to reject the proposed Zoning Text Amendment #2023-00002. The preferential treatment of abortion clinics fundamentally contradicts my values as a resident of Alexandria.**
- **Abortion clinics should not be prioritized over other establishments that satisfy the current definition of a health profession office. Unlike the services provided by primary care physicians, gastroenterologists, and ear, nose, and throat physicians, all of which conduct outpatient surgery, abortion is not a preventative or life-saving health care service. It ends lives rather than healing or saving them.**
- **Rather than making unnecessary political amendments to the zoning code, the City should be focused on collaborating with the health care community to serve those who need primary care and preventative services and therefore contribute to the overall well-being of the City and its residents.**
- **The City should be focusing its efforts on supporting mothers and children rather than spending time on unnecessary amendments to the zoning code.**

**Thank you for your time and consideration.**

**Mike Hohenstein  
6210 Berlee Drive  
Alexandria, VA 22312**

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**From:** Michael Hohenstein <mvhohenstein@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 14, 2023 4:22 PM  
**To:** CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Amendment

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**Good Afternoon,**

- **I strongly urge you to reject the proposed Zoning Text Amendment #2023-00002. The preferential treatment of abortion clinics fundamentally contradicts my values as a resident of Alexandria.**
- **Abortion clinics should not be prioritized over other establishments that satisfy the current definition of a health profession office. Unlike the services provided by primary care physicians, gastroenterologists, and ear, nose, and throat physicians, all of which conduct outpatient surgery, abortion is not a preventative or life-saving health care service. It ends lives rather than healing or saving them.**
- **Rather than making unnecessary political amendments to the zoning code, the City should be focused on collaborating with the health care community to serve those who need primary care and preventative services and therefore contribute to the overall well-being of the City and its residents.**
- **The City should be focusing its efforts on supporting mothers and children rather than spending time on unnecessary amendments to the zoning code.**

**Thank you for your time and consideration.**

**Mike Hohenstein  
6210 Berlee Drive  
Alexandria, VA 22312**

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## CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov

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**From:** Jean Albright <jeanalbrightlcs@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 14, 2023 4:03 PM  
**To:** CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Totally opposed to abortion clinics

[You don't often get email from jeanalbrightlcs@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

I am a Del Ray resident and TOTALLY OPPOSED to more abortion clinics in Alexandria. We need to put our resources toward helping women who want to keep their babies. We need further study about the process of abortion and the psychological toll this takes on mothers. We don't want to be known as the abortion capital of VA. We desperately need further dialogue because people have strong feelings about this. We need to find a way to respect all views so we don't invite protests and violence. This is a democracy and we need a democratic process. Thank you for all you do on behalf of our community. Jean Albright

Sent from my iPhone

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**CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov**

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**From:** Steve Koncar <sakoncar@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 14, 2023 3:49 PM  
**To:** CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Zoning Text Amendment 2023-00002

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Hello-

I write today to respectfully request that you NOT pass an amendment to zoning regulations to allow abortion centers to be considered health care/medical facilities. Please do not drag highly charged political issues from the federal/state level into the governance of our city.

Sincerely,

Steve & Andrea Koncar  
3311 Carolina Pl.

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**CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov**

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**From:** Chris Spoth <spothchris@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 14, 2023 3:47 PM  
**To:** CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Zoning Text Amendment #2023-00002

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Dear Council Members,

I am opposed to the proposed Zoning Text Amendment #2023-00002 that would ease access to abortion in Alexandria because it an unnecessary change, and in my opinion bad public policy.

Regards,  
Chris Spoth  
Resident,  
City of Alexandria  
Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Nicholas Matich <nicholas.matich@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 14, 2023 1:47 PM  
**To:** CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Zoning Amendment #2023-00002

You don't often get email from nicholas.matich@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I write to register my opposition to Zoning Amendment #2023-00002. There is no reason that abortion centers should be given special favorable treatment as compared with other land uses. First, there is no evidence that it is inconvenient to obtain an abortion in Alexandria. Nor is there evidence that—assuming it is difficult to obtain an abortion in the city—that zoning restrictions are the reason for such difficulties. The current measure appears not to be addressed to any actual problem, but is simply an expression of disapproval for the recent Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs*.

Zoning laws have little to do with *Dobbs* or *Roe* and it is a mistake to change zoning law because the abortion now *could* be outlawed in Virginia. There is no indication that it will be outlawed anytime soon or that *Dobbs* has made any change to the availability of abortion in Virginia. Of course, if the state legislature did outlaw abortion, favorable treatment for abortion centers under Alexandria's zoning ordinance would be irrelevant. In the meantime, many residents will have strong and reasonable objections to having abortion centers located near their homes. Those concerns carry no less weight after *Dobbs* and should not be given short shrift to make an otherwise meaningless statement of the City Council's views on constitutional law.

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## CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov

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**From:** Ginger Groene <ginger@abundantabodes.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 14, 2023 1:44 PM  
**To:** CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov  
**Subject:** Re: 2023-00002

[You don't often get email from ginger@abundantabodes.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Sorry against it  
Alexandria Resident

Sent from my iPhone  
Ginger Groene, ABR,CRS  
United Real Estate  
Direct 703-304-5523  
Website Abundantabodes.com  
Email ginger@abundantabodes.com

> On Apr 14, 2023, at 1:40 PM, Ginger Groene <ginger@abundantabodes.com> wrote:  
>  
> All for it  
> Thank you  
> Alexandria resident  
> Sent from my iPhone  
> Ginger Groene, ABR,CRS  
> United Real Estate  
> Direct 703-304-5523  
> Website Abundantabodes.com  
> Email ginger@abundantabodes.com

## CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov

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**From:** Ginger Groene <ginger@abundantabodes.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 14, 2023 1:41 PM  
**To:** CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]2023-00002

[You don't often get email from ginger@abundantabodes.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

All for it  
Thank you  
Alexandria resident  
Sent from my iPhone  
Ginger Groene, ABR,CRS  
United Real Estate  
Direct 703-304-5523  
Website Abundantabodes.com  
Email ginger@abundantabodes.com

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## CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov

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**From:** Janelle de Leon Pimentel <janelle.pimentel@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 14, 2023 1:16 PM  
**To:** CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Zoning Text Amendment #2023-00002

You don't often get email from janelle.pimentel@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To the City Council,

We would like to kindly express our opposition to setting up abortion clinics/centers in areas zoned as commercial and mixed use, especially near Catholic Churches and institutions. Please kindly reconsider this because as Catholics, we know that abortion kills a human life rather than give life and healing as do normal regular medical services that save lives. It would only make sense to have these spaces reserved for actual medical services that saves lives and not kill.

Sincerely,  
Janelle

--

Blessings,  
Janelle

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## CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov

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**From:** Carol Cousins <carol.lucetcousins@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 14, 2023 1:14 PM  
**To:** CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Vote to approve zoning text amendment #2023-00002

[You don't often get email from carol.lucetcousins@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

To the Members of Alexandria City Council:

I urge you to vote to approve the proposed zoning text amendment #2023-00002.

This proposal aligns with my values as an Alexandria citizen. Access to safe and affordable healthcare, including abortion services, is critical for the well-being of our community.

Please don't let the Christian churches dictate what the women in our community get to do with their own bodies.

Sincerely,

Carol Lucet-Cousins  
Sent from my iPhone

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