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ELECTIONS '86

No On #6

The November 4, 1986 elections will present many choices for Oregon voters. There will be sixteen State, four Lane County and three City of Eugene Ballot Measures. **What's Happening** will recommend how to vote on all the Ballot Measures and some of the candidates. We feel some issues and races are more important than others and will cover them more fully.

What's Happening hopes you will inform yourselves as much as possible and above all, remember to VOTE. Also, remember your political tax credits—\$50 for an individual, \$100 for a couple, which, if donated, can be deducted from your taxes.

Following are reasons why we recommend voting NO on Ballot Measure #6:

ment does not attempt to challenge the U.S. Supreme Court's recently reconfirmed decision to keep abortion a safe and legal option. Instead, Ballot Measure 6 is a direct attack on the rights of low-income women who are dependent on the state for their medical care.

Current Oregon Law

Oregon law states that, within the limits of available funds, assistance shall be provided to those who are "categorically or medical-

"Money is clearly not the issue. Ballot Measure 6 represents an ultimately fruitless effort to legislate morality..."

ly needy." Eligible women and their children receive funding from the state for all of their medical costs, including reproductive health care.

Currently in Oregon, any woman faced with an unplanned pregnancy has the same three options, whether she is dependent on the state for her medical care or not. She can carry the pregnancy to term and keep the child, carry the child up for adoption or end the pregnancy with an abortion. This is a complex and emotional decision and one that must be made in accordance with the woman's own

personal, religious and moral convictions. In the case of medically dependent women, the state now maintains neutrality by paying fully for each of these three options.

State Expenditures

In fiscal year 1984-85, the State of Oregon paid a total of \$10,045,716 for 4,574 public assistance deliveries. This figure represents pre-natal care and delivery costs only, at an average cost of \$2,195.78. In that same period, the state paid a total of \$325,745 for 1,602 public assistance abortions, at an average cost of \$202.08. In the 1985-86 fiscal year there were 1,209 state-funded abortions (a reduction by 400 from the previous year) for a total cost of \$236,695.

by Ruth Leibik

Ballot Measure 6 is one of the most controversial of the wide range of ballot measures facing Oregon voters on November 4. It asks: "Shall the Oregon Constitution be amended to prohibit using state monies to fund abortions except to prevent death of the mother?"

Women with the ability to pay for their own medical expenses will not be affected by the passage or defeat of Ballot Measure 6. This proposed constitutional amend-

Money is clearly not the issue. Ballot Measure 6 represents an ultimately fruitless effort to legislate morality, based on the personal, moral and religious dictates of only one segment of our population. It is for this reason that Ballot Measure 6 must be defeated. The fact that it is so extreme, making no exception for rape, incest or a woman's health, should serve only to heighten our commitment to the defeat of this unjust measure.

To find out more about Ballot Measure 6, or to get involved with the local campaign to defeat it, please contact Ruth Leibik at Planned Parenthood, 344-2632.



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