



NEW YORK STATE CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

465 State Street • Albany, NY 12203-1004 • Phone (518) 434-6195 • Fax (518) 434-9796
www.nyscatholic.org e-mail: info@nyscatholic.org

NEWS

**For Immediate Release:
January 22, 2008**

Statement on Gov. Spitzer's radical abortion plan

On this, the 35th anniversary of the tragic Supreme Court decision which legalized abortion in all 50 states, New York's citizens find human life under renewed attack, this time through a radical bill proposed by Gov. Eliot Spitzer. Kathleen M. Gallagher, director of pro-life activities for the New York State Catholic Conference, made the following comment today:

“There is much good news to report on the pro-life front. Nationally, abortions have fallen to their lowest rate since 1976, as more people, particularly young people, are taking a fresh look at abortion and seeing not empowerment for women but the killing of a generation of babies. While the pro-abortion movement celebrates a ‘woman’s right to choose,’ and demands even easier availability of abortions, most Americans are slowly coming to terms with what our society has wrought, and they are turning away from this horrific ‘choice.’

“Oddly, many abortion advocates look at the lower abortion rates and rather than rejoice at lives saved, instead see a threat. Here in New York, Gov. Eliot Spitzer has acted aggressively to make abortion even more available and common than it already is, while stomping on the rights of religious providers like Catholic hospitals. His euphemistically titled ‘Reproductive Health and Privacy Protection Act’ would raise abortion to the level of a fundamental right, like the freedom of speech, and would therefore prohibit virtually any restrictions at all.

“This bill would ensure the easy availability of late-term abortions of fully formed infants, even if there was no threat to a woman’s physical health, and allow non-doctors to perform abortions. It would prohibit ‘discrimination’ regarding the right to abortion to such an extent that Catholic hospitals could be forced to provide abortions or lose their license to operate. It would prohibit parental notification, expand the over-the-counter availability of the morning-after pill to children of any age and force all insurers to cover abortion for any reason.

“In many ways, this intolerable bill is more radical than the original state law legalizing abortion nearly 40 years ago. It would potentially force the closure of Catholic health care institutions and undoubtedly lead to the deaths of countless unborn children who otherwise might have had a chance at life. No matter what Mr. Spitzer calls his bill, clearly it is not about reproductive ‘health.’ On the contrary, this bill is about death, and it must be rejected.”

The Catholic Conference represents New York State’s Bishops in matters of public policy.