



Radical Abortion Bill

ISSUE

Oppose Abortion and Support Pregnant Women

BACKGROUND

New York State remains the abortion capital of the nation. While the national abortion rate stands at about 20 percent, New York's is at 37 percent and New York City's is at 40 percent. Rather than working to decrease abortion, some lawmakers (A.6112, Glick / S.2844, Stewart-Cousins) have introduced the so-called "Reproductive Health Act," which would guarantee that abortion is protected and available throughout the nine months of pregnancy. Governor Cuomo expressed support for this radical proposal in the prepared text of his 2012 State of the State Message. At the same time, funding for abortion alternatives, namely the Maternity & Early Childhood Foundation, has been substantially decreased.

MESSAGE POINTS

- Urge lawmakers to oppose the Reproductive Health Act and support the Maternity and Early Childhood Foundation.
- The Reproductive Health Act would not simply "codify Roe vs. Wade" in New York law, as proponents claim. The Supreme Court has rejected the view that a woman has a "fundamental" right to abortion. Instead, the Court has said that states may regulate abortion, as long as those regulations do not place an "undue burden" on the right to an abortion. This bill says abortion is fundamental and untouchable – no regulations on abortion, ever.
- The Reproductive Health Act would make New York a safe haven for late-term abortionists and ensure that abortions are legal through all nine months of pregnancy if deemed necessary to protect the life or "health" of the mother. The U.S. Supreme Court has interpreted the term "health" so broadly as to include social, economic and emotional distress factors, rendering the term meaningless.
- The Reproductive Health Act threatens religious liberty. While the bill provides some conscience protection for individuals, it could require institutions licensed or funded by the state – including religious hospitals, agencies and schools – to support abortion, provide abortion coverage, or allow abortions to be performed. The bill says that "the state shall not discriminate" against the exercise of the fundamental right to abortion in the "provision of benefits, facilities, services or information."
- The Maternity & Early Childhood Foundation (MECF) helps low-income single mothers by supporting organizations that provide pre- and post-natal care services across the state. No funds distributed through MECF are used in the counseling or provision of abortion. Funding for the Foundation has decreased from \$1.2 million in 2009 to \$600,000 in 2010 to \$300,000 in 2011. Governor Cuomo has included \$300,000 for MECF in his proposed 2012-2013 Budget. Urge your lawmakers to increase state aid for the Maternity & Early Childhood Foundation.

Church Teaching

"Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception."

—*Catechism of the Catholic Church (2270)*

"We promote a culture of life by supporting laws and programs that encourage childbirth and adoption over abortion and by addressing poverty, providing health care, and offering other assistance to pregnant women, children, and families."

—*U.S. Catholic Bishops, Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, 2011*