



Reproductive Health Act (S.2844/S.2524 and A.6112) Opposition Statement

Feminists Choosing Life of New York opposes the *Reproductive Health Act (RHA)* because it:

- Raises abortion and access to contraception to the status of a fundamental right in New York State.
- Removes the physician mandate for the abortion procedure leaving women in the hands of less qualified medical personnel thus endangering women's health and lives.
- Removes the possibility of common sense regulations on abortion and contraception use including gestation limits, 24-hour wait periods and parental notification when minors seek abortion and also for age limits for access to contraception and emergency contraception.
- Removes the terms "abortion" and "unborn child" from the New York State penal code. This leaves a grieving family no legal recourse when a chosen, unborn child dies as a result of a violent assault against the mother. The death of the child becomes prosecutable only as a serious physical injury to the mother.
- There is no evidence that increased access to contraception decrease abortion rates in any population of women and women rarely cite lack of access to contraception as a reason for their abortions.

FCLNY strongly opposes the *Reproductive Health Act* because despite the title, the bill has little to do with women's reproductive health and everything to do with political maneuvers on the side of pro-choice women's organizations, their lobbyists and the politicians whom they contribute to. Those in favor of removing the physician mandate for abortion, of which at least 38 other states require, seek to do so because the pool of physicians willing to perform the surgery is dwindling. Those who favor the RHA are putting a political position above the safety and well being of women. Rather than contributing to safe and legal abortion, the RHA renders abortion unsafe but legal. This is not acceptable.

Supporters of the RHA also claim to do so because they wish to protect a women's right to abort should *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion, be overturned sometime in the future. This too is a bogus motive. If *Roe v. Wade* should ever be overturned, the decision regarding the legality of abortion would simply return to individual states. No such "codification" is necessary.

FCLNY urges all New York representatives to take a real stand for women. Vote NO to the *Reproductive Health Act*.