

Feminists Choosing Life of New York is one of over 200 member organizations of the Consistent Life Network, Inc.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: FEMINISTS OPPOSE ABORTION EXPANSION IN NYS BUDGET

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Feminists Choosing Life of New York (FCLNY), an educational human rights group, along with other human rights coalitions, call upon all NYS Senators to take a stand for human rights. NOW. Pending in the NYS Senate are two bills that aim to expand abortion and potentially endanger women's lives.

The first is the Reproductive Health Act, S. 02796, which passed in the NYS Assembly on March 13th. The second is Part B of the Women's Agenda, lodged within Governor Andrew Cuomo's proposed Budget Bill, S. 07511, some version of which is slated for passage by the end of March.

According to the Guttmacher Institute, NYS has an abortion rate (29.6%) that is more than twice the national average (14.6%). Michele Sterlace-Accorsi, Executive Director of FCLNY, says: "Both bills essentially allow for late-term abortion on-demand, permit non-physicians to perform abortions throughout all nine months of pregnancy, and repeal the requirements that late-term abortions occur in hospitals and that infants 'born alive' during an abortion receive life-saving treatment."

In 2013, the NYS Senate defeated passage of a version of the Reproductive Health Act (RHA), then embedded in the Governor's 10 point Women's Equality Act. While the Women's Equality Act passed without the 10th point in 2015, the RHA has regularly resurfaced in the Senate and Assembly as a stand alone bill. In January, Cuomo inserted abortion related provisions, nearly identical to the RHA, into his proposed Budget. "Apparently, the RHA is not enough for pro-choice special interest groups," says Candice Renaldo, a pro-life feminist. "It appears pro-choice feminists are so desperate to expand and deregulate abortion in NYS they are willing to posture representatives to trade and barter human life for district pork."

Why? Asks a growing number of feminists. FCLNY and allied feminist coalitions, including New Wave Feminists and Rehumanize International, claim expanding and deregulating abortion degrades women and makes a mockery of the quest for women's equality. Sterlace-Accorsi states: "Women deserve better than what the Governor is offering. They deserve a Women's Agenda detached from a Budget Bill and devoid of abortion provisions that potentially harm women." FCLNY agrees that the Women's Agenda addresses crucial issues necessary for the advancement of women in NYS, such as maternal mortality, workplace sexual harassment, and domestic violence, but fears Part B may thwart its passage. FCLNY calls upon the Senate to protect human rights, by blocking the passage of the RHA and the version of the Governor's Budget seeking to expand and deregulate abortion.

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