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MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: FEMINISTS OPPOSE THE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ACT

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Feminists Choosing Life of New York (FCLNY), an educational and advocacy human rights group, opposes the passage of the Reproductive Health Act (RHA). Rather than simply decriminalize self-abortion or late-term abortions that are necessary to preserve a woman's physical health, the RHA disempowers women, jeopardizes women's health, allows for the senseless destruction of fully viable humans in utero and the death of children born alive.

NY law already allows women to undergo abortions for "any reason" up through the 24th week of pregnancy. An overturned Roe vs. Wade would not affect this right. The RHA seeks to carve out a health exception to NY's current ban on late-term (third trimester) abortion. The legislative intent of the RHA seeks to enact a BROAD rather than a NARROW health exception. Broad health exceptions permit abortions, including late-term abortions, for essentially "any reason." The RHA repeals NY Public Health Law 4164, and by doing so, permits third trimester abortions to occur in facilities other than hospitals and permits children born alive during abortions to slowly and painfully die. Life-saving treatment to children born alive, during a botched abortion, will no longer be provided, as currently required under NY law. The RHA also potentially re-victimizes victims of sex trafficking and domestic violence, and further permits individuals other than physicians to perform surgical abortions, including late-term, third trimester abortions, by completing gutting all references to abortion from NY's criminal statutes.

Women deserve better than the RHA. The RHA goes well beyond allowing non-doctors to perform non-surgical abortions, decriminalizing self-abortion, codifying Roe vs. Wade, allowing abortions to preserve a woman's physical health. The RHA instead allows for a minor to undergo a late-term abortion, by a person other than a doctor and in a place other than a hospital, without any parental notification.

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