

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FEMINISTS APPLAUD THE NYS SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE FOR DEFEATING THE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ACT & OPPOSE ITS PASSAGE AS A HOSTILE AMENDMENT

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Feminists Choosing Life of New York (FCLNY), an educational human rights group, along with other human rights coalitions oppose passage of the Reproductive Health Act, whether as a stand alone bill or as a hostile amendment. FCLNY recognizes and thanks the Senate Health Committee for defeating the bill. The group also resists packaging and passing the bill as a hostile amendment, which abortion groups are now aiming to do before the legislative session ends in June.

Candice Renaldo, a pro-life feminist, claims, “Its time for our representatives in NYS to take a stand for human rights. They need to resist the passage of abortion policy, however packaged, that potentially harms women and increases NYS’s already sky-high abortion rate.”

According to the Guttmacher Institute, NYS has an abortion rate (29.6%) that is more than twice the national average (14.6%).

“The Reproductive Health Act will potentially increase the abortion rate in NYS as well as render the procedure less safe for women” says Michele Sterlace-Accorsi, Executive Director of FCLNY. “New York has laws in place that both protect women’s health and safety in addition to the lives of viable unborn children,” she states. “The Reproductive Health Act (RHA) seeks to rescind the few standards surrounding the abortion procedure in NYS”

According to FCLNY, the RHA essentially allows for late-term abortion on-demand, permits non-physicians to perform abortions throughout all nine months of pregnancy and repeals the requirements that late-term abortions occur in hospitals and that infants ‘born alive’ during an abortion receive life-saving treatment. Further, FCLNY claims the RHA destroys the possibility of NYS enacting fundamental abortion standards currently lacking in NYS, including parental notification when minors seek abortions, wait periods and informed consent.

“The RHA also potentially re-victimizes victims of sex trafficking and domestic violence, by removing any and all references to abortion from the penal code,” states Sterlace-Accorsi. “Under current NYS criminal law a trafficker or abuser who coerces an abortion or kills an unborn child by attacking a woman could potentially be prosecuted for the crime of abortion.” Studies show victims of sex trafficking and domestic violence undergo coerced abortions. Depriving trafficked and abused women of the opportunity to hold their perpetrators criminally accountable disempowers women, FCLNY believes.

FCLNY and allied feminist coalitions, including New Wave Feminists and Rehumanize International, believe expanding and deregulating abortion degrades women and undermines the quest for equality. FCLNY is grateful to the Senate Health Committee for defeating the RHA. Its up to the whole Senate now to defeat the bill should it resurrect as a hostile amendment to any piece of pending legislation before the session ends.

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