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FEMINISTS CHOOSING LIFE OF NEW YORK AND ROCHESTER COMMUNITY BETTERMENT JOIN FORCES TO ADDRESS WOMEN'S HEALTH NEEDS FOR WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

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While some feminists are engaging in rallies across the U.S., including in Rochester, on National Women's Equality Day to protest Donald Trump's recent nominee for the U.S. Supreme Court, other feminists are not.

On August 25th, the day before Women's Equality Day, Feminists Choosing Life of New York (FCLNY), along with Rochester Community Betterment, Inc., will be raising public awareness regarding women's health needs and working hard to help address them. Together, the groups are participating in a Community Health Fair and Women's Equality Day Rally, at 235 Troup Street Park, 9:30-3pm. Among other things, the fair offers free blood pressure and cholesterol screenings as well as diabetes education.

"Despite the strides American women have made since obtaining the 'right to vote' in 1920, women continue to be dehumanized and marginalized, especially pregnant women, particularly black pregnant women," states Michele Sterlace-Accorsi, FCLNY's Executive Director. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that maternal health, including high blood pressure, cardiovascular disease and diabetes, are related to maternal as well as infant mortality. Severe maternal morbidity in the U.S. "has steadily increas[ed] in recent years," and infant mortality rates in the U.S. still exceed those in dozens of other wealthy nations. And black women and their babies are suffering the most. According to, Why America's Black Mothers and Babies Are in a Life-or-Death Crisis, "[b]lack infants in America are now more than twice as likely to die as white infants," and [b]lack women are three to four times as likely to die from pregnancy-related causes as their white counterparts."

To celebrate Women's Equality Day pro-choice feminists will be busy fighting against Brett Kavanaugh's nomination to the highest court. They fear he will jeopardize women's reproductive freedom. FCLNY and other pro-life feminists however will be busy helping to address women's health needs and highlighting why black women disproportionately experience abortion.

According to the Guttmacher Institute, "the abortion rate for black women is almost five times that for white women" in the U.S. "In New York City thousands more black babies are aborted each year than born alive." And in Monroe County, NY, 36% of black pregnancies end in abortion. "These rates are abhorrent," states Laura Major-Roberts, a speaker at FCLNY's Women's Equality Day Rally and co-founder of the Community Health Fair at Troup Street Park. Ms. Major-Roberts claims, "women deserve community resources that will enhance their health and allow them to choose and experience healthy pregnancies."

Sterlace-Accorsi says, "'reproductive freedom' is destructive and hollow when it revolves around the right to unrestricted abortion on demand throughout all nine months of pregnancy, which Roe vs. Wade and Doe v. Bolton essentially permit, and which pro-choice feminists will be standing up for at their rallies on Women's Equality Day." She goes on to ask: "How does this promote women's equality, considering it is more difficult than ever for pregnant women to choose life rather than death for unborn human lives, whatever race?"

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