

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ACT



NYCLU

NEW YORK CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

*Guarantee Every Woman in New York
Can Make Her Own Personal Health Care Decisions*

Every woman should be able to decide what is best for her and her family when making personal decisions like whether to use contraception, bear a child or end a pregnancy.

- ❖ Many politicians in Washington don't want women to have access to birth control pills and family planning services. More states passed abortion restrictions last year than ever before. The ability of women across the country to make their own personal health care decisions and access basic health care services is under attack.
- ❖ The Reproductive Health Act will guarantee that, under New York law, every woman has a right to make the personal family planning decisions that are best for her and her family. The Reproductive Health Act will preserve a woman's right to control whether or not she uses contraception, bears a child or ends a pregnancy, no matter what happens in Washington or the courts.

New Yorkers support a woman's right to choose. So should New York's law.

- ❖ A majority of New Yorkers feel that the right to make private reproductive health care decisions is threatened. Women are sick of their health being used as a political pawn. New Yorkers overwhelmingly support a woman's right to choose, and our politicians should be making it easier and safer for New York women to access the care they need.
- ❖ Seven out of 10 New Yorkers – across political and religious lines – support the Reproductive Health Act.

Every woman in New York should be able to end a pregnancy if her pregnancy endangers her health.

- ❖ Sometimes a pregnancy puts a woman's health and life at risk. When this happens – often late in a pregnancy – a woman is faced with the difficult decision of whether to have an abortion in order to protect her own health. This difficult, personal decision should be made by a woman and her doctor, not politicians in Washington or Albany.

Currently, New York criminalizes abortions after the 24th week of pregnancy, unless a woman's life is at risk. New York law does not make the same, constitutionally required exception when a woman's *health* is at risk.

No doctor should fear being thrown in jail for helping a woman whose health is threatened by pregnancy.

- ❖ Because New York law is unclear, many doctors fear that they risk criminal prosecution if they provide abortion care to a woman whose health is endangered later in a pregnancy. As a result, many health care providers are deterred from providing the best care to their patients, and some women are forced to leave the state to get the health care they need.
- ❖ The Reproductive Health Act will make it crystal clear that women may obtain – and doctors may provide – abortion care when a pregnancy puts a woman's health in danger. The Reproductive Health Act would also move abortion regulation out of the criminal laws and into the public health laws where medical practice is generally regulated. Doctors who provide reproductive health care will still be regulated to ensure they are providing safe, effective and legal care, but doctors will no longer have to fear criminal prosecution for treating a woman whose pregnancy is harming her health.

New York has a responsibility to lead the nation in the right direction.

- ❖ New York can turn the tide on the anti-woman wave sweeping the nation by passing the Reproductive Health Act. New York can be one of the only states to proactively *protect* women's health and reproductive rights. Doing so would send a powerful and necessary signal across the country that women and their doctors must be able to – and *trusted to* – make personal health care decisions that are best for themselves and their families.

Get Involved in the Reproductive Health Act Campaign Today!

Call your state representatives and tell them to protect New York's women and families by passing the Reproductive Health Act:

S. Stewart-Cousins 2844 / A. Glick 06112

To learn more and to get involved visit:

<http://www.nyclu.org/issues/reproductive-rights/reproductive-health-act>

Or

Contact kbodde@nyclu.org for more information